

Friday, April 9, 2011

## A Day Fit for Prince & Princess



### Most Anticipated Kiss In The World

NEWLYWEDS Prince William and Kate Middleton sealed their wedding with a pair of kisses on a balcony at Buckingham Palace, delighting thousands of spectators, and millions of viewers worldwide.

There was a roar of approval from the crowd as William and his bride exchanged a peck on the lips April 29. It was quickly followed by another, then a flyby of vintage and modern Royal Air Force planes.

The couple then attended a lunch reception for 650 guests, followed by an evening party for 300 friends and family.

Then, conjuring a fairytale romance of the knight riding off on his white charger with his princess, the newlyweds left the Palace in an open-top Aston Martin. The couple spent the afternoon relaxing before

attending the Dinner Dance hosted by Prince Charles.

Earlier in this regal day, Kate Middleton wore a smile that lit up TV screens around the world as she swept down the aisle to marry Prince William in a union expected to revitalize the British monarchy. Hundreds of thousands cheered as the royal couple rode an open carriage to Buckingham Palace.

With an estimated two billion people watching around the world, the couple managed to appear at times in their own private world during

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FOR MORE  
ROYAL WEDDING  
COVERAGE

SEE PAGE 4 —  
Street Parties • Brit  
Pubs • UJ Blogger  
Queen Jane Ann  
in London





# IN THE PAST MONTH

## Influx Of The American 'Masked' Raccoon Could Be Harmful

RACCOONS are a purely American species, but they have become increasingly popular as pets in Britain. The government removed regulations in 2007 that a license was not required to own one. As kittens, raccoons are cuddly, cute and playful but as they get older a propensity to bite and scratch with their large claws, followed by the attaining of sexual maturity, the creature becomes an aggressive handful. Pet owners of large snakes and other animals that become too big to deal with are often dumped, and according to Charlie Wilson of the wild life management department of Natural England, Bushy tail raccoons are going the same way as unwanted pets of the past, and finding their way into Britain's rural areas. In recent years, sightings in County Durham, Surrey, Berkshire, and Portsmouth have wildlife experts alarmed. Last month, a raccoon was photographed clearing a bird table completely of its food in Ringwood, Hampshire. Just one mating pair could bring about an invasive species explosion says Simon Baker, an author who writes about non-native mammals inhabiting Britain, and argues fervently for stronger wildlife legislation.

A lesson should be learned from Germany's experience with the raccoon says Charlie Wilson. In 1934, the German Government imported hundreds of American raccoons to enrich the forest fauna and provide hunting sport. Today, it's thought, maybe a million of these new world mammals inhabit the region, spreading over in to France and Eastern Europe. The creature's enthusiasm for bird eggs has resulted in Germany, having the smallest song bird populations in Europe.

## To Ride The Bus ... Or Not To Ride The Bus ...

IS IT the most randomly scheduled bus service in Britain, or does it actually run at all. The bus that leaves Milton Keynes bus station for the little Bedfordshire village of Henlow, has one of the strangest timetables in the whole of the nation. It's not a regularly run service at all. In fact, it only makes the 70 minute journey, amidst some of Britain's most rural and glorious landscapes, on the fifth Tuesday of every month. Problem is, seven months of the year do not have five Tuesdays in them so the bus does not run in these months, just the other five months of the year. A BBC journalist attempted to ride the bus on one of its recent rare, planned runs, but after waiting fifteen minutes with no bus, he gave up and went home.

Leaving the question: Does route W13 actually exist?  
As for the village of Henlow, with a population of 3,084, known for its nearby RAF airbase and a pricey health spa, they seem to be doing just fine with or without the phantom bus service.

## Henry Morton Stanley Not An American, We Now 'Presume'

MOST PEOPLE will recall Henry Morton Stanley as the American explorer and journalist who found David Livingstone still alive, living in the depths of Victorian Africa in the mid-1800s. But in fact, Henry Morton Stanley was a Welshman born in Denbigh, who immigrated to America as a teenager.

Last month, the citizens of Denbigh,

unveiled a statue of its 'long-lost resident and were criticized for honouring a man who reputedly sided with the disenfranchisement of many African tribes during that era. A strongly worded letter to the *Daily Telegraph* with fifty signatures attached, calling Stanley an imperialist, coupled with several blogs and tweets that complained bitterly. Their words were ignored, however, by the local council and the bronze statue of a man renowned for his exploration of Africa was unveiled as planned.

Stanley clung to the myth of his American birthright, because he was embarrassed about his illegitimacy. He was literally abandoned on the streets of Denbigh, as a youngster and spent ten years in a workhouse. After fame and fortune and a famous "David Livingstone I presume," he returned to the Welsh market town only to find many long-lost relatives turning up for a handout. Apparently, he gratefully obliged, but the secret of his real birth was revealed. He later adopted a great-nephew who was living in poverty in the town.

While the town had received outside criticism, councillor Gwyneth Kensler, concurred that the majority of the Welsh market town's residents were in favour of honouring their most famous son and the council would not be dissuaded otherwise.

## Welsh Farmer's Noisy Cockerels Banned By Local Council

ROY RYLANDS of Bwch-y-Fridd, Newtown, Wales, takes pride in his 52 hens and five cockerels on his small holding, but neighbour Roger Morgan has tried sleeping in every room to evade the notorious crowing of Ryland's cocks before dawn has broken. The roosters sound-off loudly at anytime of the night, causing continuing wakefulness to a neighbour who arises irritable and red-eyed every morning. A complaint to the Powys Council had them sent out an investigation team, which found that the cockerels were in fact on the same schedule as local owls. A noise abatement order was issued against the Rylands, who contested the decision at Welshpool Magistrate Court last month. Morgan, 48, complained that the creatures' crowing was similar to a police siren and the sleeplessness was having a detrimental effect on his job as a coach driver.

David Peat, chairman of the court, ruled that a statutory nuisance did exist and the Rylands were given 21 days to get rid of the roosters. The Rylands were further aggravated when the court ordered them to pay £6,000, towards the £10,228 it had cost the council to get involved. Valerie Rylands called it a "great shame for farmers in general." David Peat suggested a mediation process should have been put in motion, long before the situation reached its confrontational conclusion.

## Shear 'Naked' Power Of Soldier Chases Away Three Intruders

LANCE-CORPORAL Wayne O'Mahoney of the 103rd Regiment Royal Artillery knows all about violence, he was in Iraq for two years. When intruders broke down the front door of his home in Salford, he jumped out of bed and charged downstairs ready to do battle. Three men were surprised by the irate army man as they began ransacking the living room, but O'Mahoney, 41, without a thought for his own safety tore in to them. After a few blows had

numbers in Britain have plummeted and experts are not sure why. Countryside dwellers like the bullfinch, the goldfinch, the fieldfare, and the redwing survived by making trips to the towns and cities where bird lovers spread goodies on bird tables, which effectively kept the creatures alive.

## Farmer Curb Rustlers By Dying His Sheep Orange

SHEEP STEALING has become so rampant in Devon, that a local farmer has painted his whole flock orange in an attempt to deter thieves and rustlers.

John Heard, 48, of Okehampton, has had over two hundred sheep go missing over the last few years, but his newly painted black faced ewes, now a bright orange colour appear to be deterring such thievery. The farmer's 250-strong flock roam the great expanse of unfenced Dartmoor. A stolen ewe can fetch £140 on the black market. Thieves usually mixed the stolen sheep in with legitimate sales at the abattoir, but an orange sheep would certainly raise eyebrows and bring unwanted questions. It's a non-toxic dye that wears off in time, and does the sheep no harm whatsoever.

"In the circumstances orange sheep seems like a good idea," said a spokesman for the Farmer's Union, who confirmed that there has been a five hundred per cent increase in sheep stealing over the last year.

## Employee Fired For Drinking The 'Wrong Tea'

TEA BREAKS at the Co-operative grocery store in West Didsbury, Manchester, usually means using Co-op brand tea which the company provides free of charge. James Alden however, had a more exotic taste for a herbal citrus flavour and when he chose the Lady Grey brand over the store's own, it resulted in him losing his job. At a disciplinary hearing he was quizzed with misappropriation of company stock by taking items to the canteen that he had not paid for. If he had used the store's Fair Trade brand teabags it was acceptable, but using Lady Grey tea, it was determined as stealing.

"I'm completely flabbergasted," said James Alden, who has worked at the company for eleven years. "I can't believe I've been sacked for using the wrong teabags." The former staffer complained he'd been a model employee who was never late and not lost any sick days during his tenure.

He won't challenge his firing however, and is looking for another job.

A Co-op spokesman explained that Alden had been dismissed following other breaches of business procedures, and not just the teabag incident.

## Ministry Of Defence Give OK To Soldier's Breast Reduction

RUMOURS that the Ministry of Defence has authorized reduced breast reduction for the more bosomy of Britain's female soldiers, has resonated into fervent criticism as the armed forces complain about their shortage of funding. It now appears that four women undertook the procedure, so as to fit in to the newly distributed body armour, while three other soldiers have had ear surgery so they can wear the regular army helmet. In case of injury on the battle field, Britain's soldiers

are given all the plastic surgery that is needed and no questions are asked.

A reluctant Ministry of Defence did admit last month, that occasional plastic surgery may be carried out for occupational and operational reasons, but confirmed the body armour comes in various sizes and breast reduction is not needed to wear such items. The information came to light during a request under Britain's Freedom of Information Laws. The conflicting answers only added to the controversy of plastic augmentation within Britain's armed forces.

## Race Signs Removed By Activist - Lives Endangered

A FOOT race over the rugged moorland of Moel Tryfan in Gwynedd, North Wales, produced panic at the finishing line when no-one show up after a determined amount of time. The race was run late evening and it was already getting misty, and soon organizers were concerned where the 119 runners had got to, so runners included some 19 schoolchildren. They'd got lost. A local Welsh activist had apparently objected to all the race direction signs written in English and stolen them. The runners were running blind and had no idea if they were on the correct course or not. The police were called in and race officials were preparing to send out search parties on the misty moor, when the runners started arriving from many different directions. In the end everyone was accounted for and was safe, but Mike Blake who runs the race for several charities was annoyed that someone would endanger the lives of children, some who were as young as seven-years-old.

The man who took the signs down was identified by some of the runners and his name was given to local police, and an arrest is expected.

## Expelled Student Keeps Stiff Upper Lip

13-YEAR-OLD Marc Grey of Blyth, Northumberland, was proud of his newly grown pencil thin moustache but officials at the Bede Academy, where he attends school, regarded the face hair as a grave disciplinary slip-up. And when it was not removed, the school expelled the student.

Marc's parents Peter and Mandy, explained to the school that he had an hereditary skin condition, and under advice of dermatologists had been told not to shave, as it would inflame Marc's condition. They even provided a note from the skin doctor to the school where the condition was explained as pseudofolliculitis. The Bede Academy however, stuck to their policies on appearance and social order, and even though Marc offered to compromise and shave once a month, he was forced to find another school. An appeal against the expulsion went to the schools disciplinary committee and an independent tribunal, where both ruled in the academy's favour.

Peter Grey removed his other two sons from the academy in protest, and says he will continue the fight with a complaint against the school, which is headed for the Education Ombudsman. Principal Gwyneth Evans was unrepentant.

"Parents are made aware of the policy from the outset and agree to abide by the rules when the child joins the academy."



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# Most Anticipated Kiss In The World



Prince William and Kate Middleton leave Buckingham Palace in an Aston Martin belonging to William's father Prince Charles.

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ing the ceremony at Westminster Abbey. William whispered to Kate, who radiated contentment and joy, as they pledged their lives to one another with the simple words "I will."

## GOWN

The biggest secret of the day — Middleton's wedding gown — prompted swoons of admiration as she stepped out of a Rolls-Royce with her father. Against all odds, the sun broke through steely gray skies at that exact moment.

The ivory and white satin dress — with its low neckline, high lace collar, long lace sleeves and a train over two yards long — was designed by Sarah Burton at Alexander McQueen. Middleton's hair was half-up, half-down and decorated with dramatic veil and a tiara on loan from Queen Elizabeth II.

"It's a dream," said Jennie Bond, a leading British monarchy expert and royal wedding consultant for The Associated Press. "It is a beautiful laced soft look which is extremely elegant. She looked stunning."

William, second-in-line to the throne after his father, Prince Charles, wore the scarlet tunic of an Irish Guards officer, sending a strong signal of support for the armed forces and reinforcing his new image as a dedicated military man. The couple's first royal wedding present came from the Queen: the titles of duke and duchess of Cambridge.

## WELL-WISHERS

Floods of well-wishers — as well as some protesters — packed central London, around Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and other landmarks beginning at dawn, despite cool temperatures and the threat of rain. Cheers erupted as huge television screens began broadcasting at Trafalgar Square and Hyde Park.

"Will, it's not too late!" read one sign held aloft by an admirer dressed as a bride.

Maid of honor Pippa Middleton wore a simple column dress and naturally styled hair, while best man Prince Harry was dressed in formal military attire. The flower girls, in cream dresses with full skirts and flowers in their hair, walked down hand-in-hand with Pippa.

The iconic abbey was airy and calm, the long aisle leading to the altar lined with maple and hornbeam trees as light streamed in through the high arched windows. The soft green trees framed the couple against the red carpet as they walked down the aisle, having recited their vows, without stumbling, before Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

The royal-couple smiled broadly as they were driven to Buckingham Palace in the open-topped State Landau, a carriage built in 1902, escorted by four white horses and followed by scarlet-clad troops on horseback.

The Queen and her husband had promised to go away for the evening, leaving the younger royals free to party the night away — and Harry to make his best man's

speech away from his octogenarian grandparents' ears.

## PLUMAGE

Plumage of Amazonian variety filled the cavernous abbey as some 1,900 guests filled in, the vast majority of women in hats, some a full two feet across or high. Some looked like dinner plates, and one woman wore a bright red fascinator that resembled a flame licking her cheek. A BBC commentator noted there were some "very odd (fashion) choices" walking through the abbey door.

Most men, however, looked elegant and suave in long tails, some highlighted by formal plaid pants and vests. Others wore military uniforms.

The Queen, of course, wore a soft yellow hat and coat dress, just like the bookies had predicted.

All the details — the wedding dress, her hair, their titles, the romantic kiss on the balcony, the honeymoon — were finally being answered. But the biggest question won't be resolved for years: Will this royal couple live happily ever after?

Will their union endure like that of William's grandparents — The Queen and Prince Philip, now in its 64th year — or crumble in a spectacular and mortifying fashion like that of his own parents, Prince Charles and Princess Diana?

Recent history augurs badly: The first marriages of three of the Queen's four children ended in divorce. But William and Kate seem to glow with happiness in each other's company, and unlike Charles and Diana they've had eight years to figure out that they want to be together.

Still, the fate of their marriage depends on private matters impossible for the public to gauge, since any wedding is fundamentally about two people. Will their lives together, starting with such high hopes, be blessed by good fortune, children, good health, productive work?

## NURTURED

Much will depend on whether 28-year-old William and 29-year-old Kate can summon the things every couple needs: patience, love, wit and wisdom. But they face the twin burdens of fame and scrutiny. Money, power, beauty — it can all go wrong if not carefully nurtured.

These are the thorny issues upon which the fate of the monarchy rests, as the remarkable Queen, now 85, inevitably ages and declines.

Thousands of street parties were under way as Britons celebrated the heritage that makes them unique — and overseas visitors come to witness traditions they've admired from afar.

Brenda Hunt-Stevenson, a 56-year-old retired teacher from Newfoundland, Canada, said there was only one thing on her mind. "I want to see that kiss on that balcony. That's going to clinch it for me. I don't care what Kate wears. She is beautiful anyway."

The celebration was British to the core, from the freshly polished horse-drawn carriages to the sausages and lager served at street parties. Some pubs opened early, offering beer and English breakfasts — sau-

sages, beans, toast, fried eggs and bacon. The festivities reflected Britons' continuing fascination with the royal family, which despite its foibles remains a powerful symbol of unity and pride.

"It's very exciting," Prime Minister David Cameron said. "I went on to the mall last night and met some people sleeping on the streets. There's a sense of excitement that you can't really put a word to ... It's a chance to celebrate."

## SNUB

A number of famous people were left off the guest list, including President Barack Obama and Britain's last two prime ministers, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown of the Labour Party, which is not as strong a backer of the monarchy as the ruling Conservatives. That snub might resonate for years among Labour voters.

The royals fervently hope that a joyous union for William and Kate will rub out the squalid memories of his parents' embarrassing each other and the nation with confessions of adultery as their marriage tumbled toward divorce.

And there is no small irony in the sight of Americans waking up before dawn (on the East Coast) or staying up all night (West Coast) after their fellow countrymen fought so fiercely centuries ago to throw off the yoke of the British monarchy and proclaim a country in which all men are created equal.

Brenda Mordie, 61, from Columbus, Georgia, clutched a Union Jack with her friend Annette Adams, 66.

"We came for the excitement of everything," Mordie said. "We watched William grow up. I came for Prince Charles' wedding to Diana and I came for Princess Diana's funeral. We love royalty England and London."

## Royal Wedding Street Parties Held Across Britain

By Jill Lawless

FROM TINY villages to big cities, hundreds of thousands of Britons celebrated the royal wedding Friday with brass bands, baked goods and red, white and blue bunting at traditional neighborhood street parties.

There were 5,500 applications for street closures across the country, officials said, with residents taking over usually traffic-filled roads with long tables, picnic meals and festive banners.

Many towns and cities erected outdoor screens so people could watch the wedding ceremony of Prince William and Kate Middleton in Westminster Abbey — and their kiss from a Buckingham Palace balcony a little later.

With rain holding off and sun breaking through the cloud in London, residents in several neighborhoods came out to mingle over cold drinks and home-baked treats.

Street parties on big royal occasions have been a British tradition for decades, from Prince Charles and Princess Diana's wedding in 1981 to Queen Elizabeth II's golden jubilee in 2002.

## ENGLISH

"It's very much a London thing," said actress Barbara Windsor, star of the quintessentially English Carry On comedy films and the EastEnders soap opera. "When the war was over we used to have street parties all the time for no reason."

Windsor was among more than 200 people attending a north London party where residents ate pizza and Indian food from long tables before listening to an Irish band and a string quartet.

Across town, about 100 charity workers and local children were invited to a party in Downing Street, home to Prime Minister David Cameron and his family. They were served egg sandwiches and red Jell-O from paper plates, soda in paper cups and tea poured from stainless steel teapots into white china cups.

A trio of singers performed an eclectic assortment of songs and the policeman on duty outside 10 Downing St. loaned children his bobby helmet while they posed for photos.

The prime minister, still dressed in the formal tailcoat he had worn to the wedding, dropped by to share details of ceremony.

"It was beautiful to see two people who really love each other and who are incredibly happy at an amazing ceremony," Cameron said.

And, he added, "the cupcakes were very good."

There were parties in city centers and rural villages, including the mountain hamlet

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UJ reader Dave Foley let his Phoenix, Arizona neighbours know there was a Royal Wedding!



Union Jack Blogger "Queen Jane Ann" who bumped into a trio of choirboys on their way to the Westminster Abbey to participate in the Royal Wedding ceremonies.



Ye Olde King's Head in Santa Monica, California went all out with bunting and balloons for their early morning Royal Wedding restaurant crowd.

## Royal Couple To Delay Honeymoon

SHUNNING an immediate overseas honeymoon and opting instead for a quiet weekend at a secret British location, Prince William and Kate Middleton made it clear, the day after their wedding, they want to carve out some space for themselves.

This fight for privacy is crucial if they are to avoid being hounded like William's mother, the late Princess Diana, whose every move was tailed.

The royal newlyweds started the day by asking the media not to intrude this weekend and to leave them alone when they eventually start their honeymoon. Separately, palace officials also asked the media not to reveal where the couple live near William's Royal Air Force base in Wales.

He returns to military duty there as a helicopter rescue pilot after the holiday weekend, May 1.

The request for privacy was in stark contrast to their accessibility to the public over the previous two days.

William and Middleton, who have the

titles of Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, now seem determined not to let paparazzi armed with long-lensed cameras make it impossible for them to go about their business without constantly feeling they are being stalked.

Previously, officials said William had scheduled two weeks of leave from his military duties amid indications that the honeymoon would begin a day or two after the wedding. But the couple said on the website that they would take an overseas honeymoon at a later date.

The ultimate destination remains a

closely-guarded secret, although a number

of idyllic locations have been mentioned.

German media reports, which were not

confirmed, suggested the couple planned

to spend a honeymoon at a small private

island in the Seychelles.

The reports were based on the com-

ments of a German real estate agent who

claimed to have rented the island to the

British royals.



Prince Charles, Prince Philip, Carole Middleton, Queen Elizabeth II and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, stand outside of Westminster Abbey in their head-topping finery after the royal wedding.

Packed house at Britannia Arms, Aptos, California enjoy their Royal Wedding and their Royal breakfasts!





## Royal Wedding Street Parties Held Across Britain



1940s-themed Royal Wedding street party in Manchester.

*Continued from page 4*

of Rookhope in northern England, where 100 villagers enjoyed cakes, scones and tea in the local working men's club.

Not everyone was cheering the wedding. Anti-monarchist group Republic held a "not the royal wedding" party in a London square.

Several hundred people – some wearing "Citizen not Subject" T-shirts – enjoyed food, drink and music and games including

a stall allowing visitors to buy a mock title such as knight or dame.

John Deery, 45, of London, said he had nothing against the royals personally.

In Glasgow, officials warned people not to go to an unofficial party in Kelvingrove Park after more than 14,000 indicated on Facebook that they planned to attend. Officials said the party did not have permission and feared it would overwhelm the park.

## Royal Wedding Electricity Surge In Britain

THE SURGE in electricity demand following the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton easily surpassed the impact of the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

The National Grid said it recorded a 2,400 megawatt jump in demand – equivalent to a million tea kettles being switched on – once the couple returned to Buckingham Palace. That compared to the 1,800 megawatt surge after the Charles-Diana wedding in 1981.

The National Grid says the effect measures when people forsake television for other tasks, including making tea, thus giving an idea of the size of the audience.

It was the fourth-largest surge recorded in Britain. The biggest was 2,800 megawatts after the penalty shoot-out for England's World Cup semifinal against West Germany in 1990.

## Shoppers Down To Bare Essentials

AN ESSEX shopping centre ran a naughty promotion last month that offered shoppers a £100 gift card if they turned up wearing only their underwear and high-heel shoes.

The first 100 ladies to pass through the doors of the Lakeside Shopping Centre, in Thurrock were to be awarded their bonus.

Many heads were turned to see the scantily-clad ladies checking out the store's launching of the spring fashion range. The first 100 females who turned up wearing only their underwear and a pair of high heels won a £100 gift card.

All entrants had to be over the age of 18 and had to have their photo taken as part of Lakeside's 'flash of fashion'.

The shopping centre promised entrants the chance to arrive in their underwear and "leave fully clothed in a fabulous new look for the new season".



## Police Mail Asbo To Unborn Child

ANTI-SOCIAL Behaviour Orders are a legal tool for controlling young rowdies without long legal procedures. The effectiveness of the Asbo is still debated.

But, one thing was clear to a pregnant Charlotte Childs last month. The Asbo mailed to her unborn baby was definitely not one of the more well-targeted versions of this document.

Childs, 33, was invited to attend a meeting to discuss her naughty son, reported *The Mirror*.

The letter even addressed her baby by one of the names she and husband Damien, 29, are planning to give him.

Charlotte, who was 36 weeks' pregnant, said: "The letter said there had been an incident of anti-social behaviour and our child was identified. I would love to know how a 36-week-old foetus has managed to go to the park and cause trouble without me noticing. I find the whole thing hilarious, especially as I'm this close to

having my first child."

Damien, 29, added: "There was a request to attend the equivalent of a parenting class with regards to the anti-social behaviour of my unborn son."

"Just two weeks prior to that there had been some anti-social behaviour on the street and we were really pleased

with the police response time."

The letter was sent to the couple's home and was addressed for the attention of the boy's guardians.

Embarrassed police and council officials have since apologised. One of the alleged troublemakers has the same surname.

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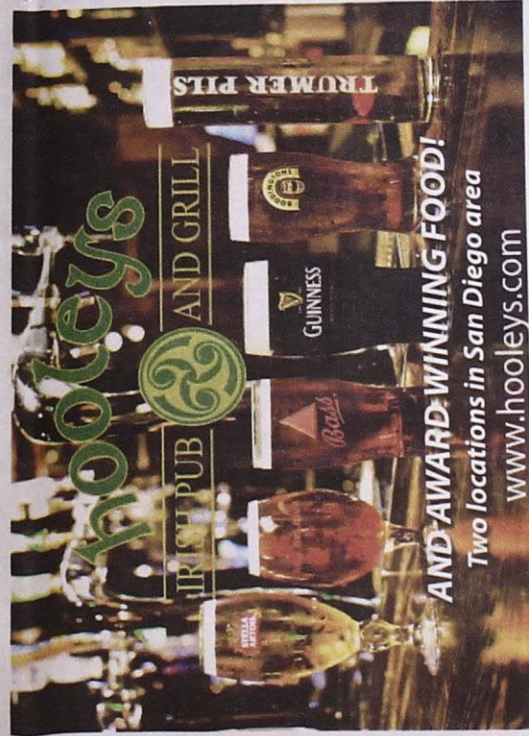
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## KEEPING UP WITH BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE SOAP OPERAS



By Glenda Young

THERE'S underhand dealings at Underworld when Carla takes on fishy Frank Foster, the knicker factory's newest and biggest customer. When Frank asks to see a sample of the pants and wants to agree on a final price, Carla entrusts this task to Maria with her extensive knowledge of the rag trade after two minutes on the job. Carla gives Maria the afternoon off so that she can pimp herself up with clothes and make-up ready to conduct in-depth contract negotiations round at Frank's flat. To cut an awful story short, Frank tries it on, pushes too far and Maria flees the flat crying attempted rape. At the factory the next day, Maria comes clean to Carla who's supportive and wants to bring in the police but with no evidence, just Frank's word against Maria's they decide not to. Carla confronts Frank who says that he thought that Maria had tarted herself up for him and he felt flattered by the attention. It's exactly what Carla planned of course, so she's left feeling somewhat guilty.

Demon David Platt is completely and utterly in lust with Kylie Turner. Gail thinks she's too common for her son (she's right) but Audrey convinces Gail that they should be more accepting of David's fiancée and they even plan on opening a tin of salmon for her when she comes round for tea. The two young lovebirds plan their wedding and at first, Gail's supportive, giving Kylie a wad of wedding cash for her to buy herself a bridal gown. But when she finds out that Kylie's spent the cash on booze, she tells her she wants nothing more to do with her.

Over at the hair salon, Audrey's got a problem when one of her clients, Mrs Hargreaves dies under a dryer. Audrey's thoughts turn to her own mortality and the state of her will and she decides to hand over the salon to grandson David now to avoid saddling her family with a heavy tax burden. With rival hairdresser and old mate Claudia popping into the salon to see Audrey often these days, the two women grow close and Claudia's fella Marc gets friendly with Audrey. However, Audrey's

shocked by a phone call from the cops to say Marc's at the police station and has asked for Audrey, not Claudia, to come to collect him. It turns out that Marc's a transvestite and he's been beaten up by some yobs for venturing out in women's clothes. "I am, as the saying goes, a little out of my comfort zone," admits Audrey when Marc tells her about his secret life as a lady.

Meanwhile, Graeme the window cleaner is planning his wedding to Xin, Tina's Chinese friend. Xin needs to get wed so she can stay in the country and Tina offers her Graeme's hand in a sham marriage.

Over at the Rovers, Liz and Jim want to buy the pub from their son Steve and his wife Becky who plan to run away to Spain with Steve's daughter Amy and Becky's nephew Max, who they bought from Max's real mum for £25,000.

There's no love lost between the Websters this month as warring Kevin and Sally meet at their solicitors to start divorce proceedings. But just before Sally signs on the dotted line, Tyrone bursts through the door to let Sally know that Kevin's just won a small fortune on a scratchcard. Pound signs light up in Sally's eyes, aware she could be entitled to half of Kevin's winnings and the divorce, for now, is off.

Elsewhere this month, there's lots of love going on when young Chesney and Katy move in together and plan to have a baby. They're only young teenagers themselves, naive, innocent and full of love and hope.

And finally, Janice Battersby was driven away from the cobbles this month by tasty Trev the trash man to start a new life in Spain. Adios, amigos!

Glenda Young, Coronation Street Blog  
http://coronationstreetupdates.blogspot.com

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about to get married but is now (again) being pursued by ex Max, who shares a kiss with her right before the wedding and it turns out she still has feelings for him as well. And in his passive/aggressive way, Max botches Tanva's wedding by making Abi late and getting in a car accident on the way there...

Outside the wedding, Ronnie sees Kat and Kat asks her if the pain of losing a child ever goes away. Ronnie says no, but she can't take the guilt any more and tells confused Jack that James isn't his and walks across the Square to the Queen Vic, hands the baby to Kat and Alfie and tries to explain what she did, and that this is their baby Tommy. At first they don't believe it, but then say they are calling the cops and Ronnie says she already has. They arrive and she goes with them and confesses to everything. We don't see Ronnie being interrogated, but we do see her with the psychiatrist and see all the disturbance, caused by her tragic life, that has been bubbling under the surface. When Jack goes to prison to ask her 'why?' it is clear she doesn't want a defense, she says she wants to disappear and tells Jack to forget about her.

Kudos all around to the entire cast and crew of EastEnders for the 'cot death' baby swap storyline. For some bizarre reason, this storyline has been controversial, with publicity seekers and the media manufacturing outrage over it and screaming to the sky about how offensive it supposedly was; most of the complaints, clearly, coming from people who don't watch EastEnders. In actual fact, this storyline has been absolutely fantastic from start to finish, with great writing and gripping performances from the actors. It is only too bad that the complaints overshadowed the excellence of this thoroughly outstanding storyline. Baby Tommy is now back with Kat & Alfie, Jack is grieving and Kat is having a hard time coping...

If you'd like to keep up with all things EastEnders, just email me here at the Lauderdale, to sign up for my FREE, weekly e-newsletter, 'The E20 Chronicles', by emailing me: [E20Lauderdale@gmail.com](mailto:E20Lauderdale@gmail.com). And ATTENTION Houston: An EastEnders fan from NY has recently moved to Houston, is missing all our get-togethers, and is looking to find other EE fans in Houston. If there are any EE groups in Houston, please email me and I'll pass the info along to her.

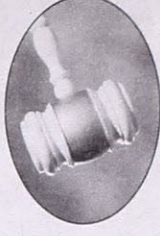
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Ex-UK Minister Pleads Guilty  
Over Expenses Charges

AN EX-GOVERNMENT minister has pleaded guilty over the largest bogus claim exposed in Britain's lawmaker expense check scandal.

Elliot Morley last month pleaded guilty to two charges of false accounting over bills worth £32,000.

The 58-year-old Morley was charged over mortgage payments on a loan that had already been paid off, and had submitted the largest fraudulent claim.

Morley, an environment minister in Tony Blair's government, chose not to run for Parliament last year.

A total of 392 current and former legislators were ordered to repay about £1.12m following an investigation into the scandal.

Morley's lawyer James Sturman said the ex-lawmaker expects to be jailed when he is sentenced.

Palace Announces Dates  
Of Royal Visit To Ireland  
And Washington DC

BUCKINGHAM PALACE says it has set the dates for the Queen's groundbreaking visit to the Republic of Ireland.

The visit will mark the first visit by a ruling British monarch in a century marked by Ireland's brutal war of independence from Britain and the Northern Irish conflict.

The palace says the visit will take place from Tuesday, May 17 to May 20. It says the Queen would be formally welcomed by Irish President Mary McAleese at Ireland's Garden of Remembrance and attend a state dinner in Dublin Castle, once the seat of British rule.

The Queen, a known horse enthusiast, will also visit the Irish National Stud in Kildare.

Prince Charles' office says he will be traveling to the US May 3-5 for a brief visit that will include a trip to the White House where he will meet with President Barack Obama and give a keynote speech at a conference on sustainable agriculture at Georgetown University.

The Prince of Wales last visited the US in 2007 with his wife, the duchess of Cornwall.



# Fings Ain't Wot They Used To Be

IN RAY Bradbury's *Sound of Thunder*, Eckels is a traveller transported back in time to shoot a Tyrannosaurus Rex. He has to walk along a special path to do this but the creature he shoots is fated to die that day so as not to upset the balance of nature. Returning to the time machine he slips off the path and accidentally treads on a butterfly. When he reaches modern times, the world is slightly yet awfully different.

Bradbury describes the effect of his action in destroying this butterfly: it was "an exquisite thing, a small thing that could upset balances and knock down a line of small dominoes and then big dominoes and then gigantic dominoes, all down the years across time".

I often reflect on that when I think about the *LU* readers who have long departed from these shores and wonder how the changes in Britain must seem to you. Perhaps the absence of familiar things from times past is not immediately apparent. After all, maybe the things you remember from your childhood are still here and you just didn't spot them this time around.

## OBVIOUS

Nevertheless, some things are obvious: the newspaper seller in London used to shout "Star", "News" and "Standard!" The first two papers are long since departed, along with daily papers like the *Herald*, the *News Chronicle*, *Reynold's News* and *Today*. *Reynold's* gained an extra five years of life as the *Sunday Citizen* but eventually died in 1967. *Empire News* was another popular Sunday and it metamorphosed into *News of the World* in the 1960s. But you will look in vain for the *Daily Sketch*, the *Sunday Dispatch* and even *Sporting Life*.

The *Daily Worker*

went under in 1966

to be replaced by the

*Morning Star*. It ap-

pears nowadays to be

circulated solely amongst

communists with a print

run of something up to

20,000 daily.

There are many other products which have gone the way of all flesh. There was a time when children aped the behaviour of adults by smoking sweet cigarettes. The thin white sticks complete with a pink tip gave many post-war children their first touch of sophistication. Now it seems incredible that children could ever have been encouraged into dummy smoking runs.

## ATTEMPT

There was an attempt at reducing the

dental damage

with varieties of

toothpaste. We

never had to

wonder where

the yellow went

because we

brushed our

teeth with Pepsodent. It even found its way

into a *Mad Magazine* cartoon many years

ago with a drawing of Leonardo Da Vinci

looking at his easel, sitting in front of the

Mona Lisa thinking, "I wonder where the

yellow went?" Among the tubes of paint is a

tube of Pepsodent.

Other notable deaths include a shed-load of sweets like Imps - those little black cushions of liquorice (I suppose) that took the lining from your mouth. Fishermen's Friends had a similar effect. They survive but those brick-like lozenges have gone along with the sulphuric acid ingredient. The same is true for Victory V lozenges which are no longer available. As are Sherbet Dibsabs.

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See page 3

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By John Polley

coins is the 20p: a four bob bit - can you imagine it! And we have also witnessed the emergence of the impossible coin, the 0.9p. All our petrol is priced in this non-existent thing. The cost of unleaded (per litre, and what is that all about?) currently stands at £134.9.

## NOSTALGIA

Right there you go. I have probably started a bout of nostalgia wherever in expat Britain this article happens to be read. However, I am bound to say that the biggest change in Britain since you left is that you aren't here. And to me that is what I have missed most. Your correspondence to me reveals all those bright, witty Brits who really should be here!

Those of you who follow my music tips with slavish attention will be delighted to learn that Mihai Popoviciu's latest CD (*The Unexpected Truth*) is released later this month. As my teenage friend assures me, "this is techno-lunk of the purest sort for the people of the night". Check it out on [www.epm-music.com](http://www.epm-music.com).

[johnpolley1@ntlworld.com](mailto:johnpolley1@ntlworld.com)

## Slain N Ireland Officer Buried, Arms Cache Found

AS THE CASKET of a slain Catholic policeman was solemnly hoisted through his town, Northern Ireland police investigating his killing announced a major weapons cache seizure and arrested a suspected Irish Republican Army dissident.

Assistant Chief Constable Drew Harris revealed the breakthrough last month as scenes of exceptional Catholic-Protestant unity, especially between Northern Ireland's politicians, played out at the funeral of Constable Ronan Kerr.

The 25-year-old new recruit was killed by a booby-trap bomb under his car in the town of Omagh - the first killing of a member of Northern Ireland's security forces in two years. The dissidents responsible mount such attacks in hopes of intimidating members of the Irish Catholic minority from joining the Northern Ireland police, a formerly Protestant-dominated force that today is 30 percent Catholic.

## INTELLIGENCE

Harris said the 100-strong detective team investigating the Kerr killing used intelligence tips to discover the weapons dump in Coalisland, a traditional IRA power base in County Tyrone in central Northern Ireland. He said detectives arrested a 26-year-old man in Scotland suspected of links to the arsenal.

Dissident IRA attacks over the past four years have demonstrated that they still have at least small quantities of Semtex and other Libyan-era weapons. Dissidents also have been caught in British sting operations trying to buy weapons in Lithuania, Slovakia and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

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## UK-US TAX INFORMATION

## Just When You Thought You Were Finished With Tax For Another Year!

STRICTLY SPEAKING, this is not a tax requirement. But ignore it at your peril because the penalties (both civil and criminal) mean this is one obligation you do not wish to forget. There are no extensions for this form, so even if you are taking time out until October, this one needs to be looked at - now!

If you have had the equivalent of \$10,000 in bank or investment accounts outside the US at any time during a year, you must file information returns with the US Treasury by the following June 30. Your total is reached by adding together the various account balances. The equivalent value in pounds for 2010 is just under £6,250. The form concerned is the aptly-named "Report on Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts" otherwise known as the FBAR (it only makes sense if you reverse the title) or TD F 90-22.1 (for even less obvious reasons until you look at the top left corner of the form).

Revised forms were introduced two years' ago and more information is now required about each account. The name and address of the bank, building society or investment company are predictable requirements, but you must also include your account number and the value in dollars of the highest balance in the account during the year. No matter when during the year the highest balance occurred, the exchange rate for the transfer into dollars for the form is that on December 31. For 2010, this was £1 = \$1.6042.

These forms cannot be jointly filed - each person must complete and sign their own form. They must also be prepared for US entities, such as corporations, partnerships, trusts and estates. Accounts are split between those owned personally, shared accounts and those over which you have

## Man Turns Down £80,000 For Milk Bottle Collection

STEVE WHEELER'S massive collection of milk bottles is staying put. This was ascertained last month when Wheeler turned down an offer of £80,000 for the array of 17,500 bottles.

Wheeler, of Worcestershire has scoured farm yards and land around the world for 25 years for his hobby. And the ex-businessman does not even like milk, reported *The Mirror*.

The unusually shaped bottles, some dating from the 19th century, but Steve insists it was not hard to turn down a fellow enthusiast's offer.

"I'd never sell my collection - it means too much to me," he said.

"It's worth a lot of money but I don't even have it insured. If the bottles



get broken or stolen, they can't be replaced."  
He has built an 80ft shed to house the collection - which weighs more than 14 tonnes - behind his home.

Wife Sue, also 61, said: "I don't really like the clutter but I've been to parts of Britain I'd never have seen otherwise and met lovely people on bottle hunts."

*Mary-Heather Styles is not a "scary" person but works in an area that many people find very scary indeed. She enjoys creating order out of chaos but would prefer you not be bothered by chaos. She can be contacted at [mbstyles@btinternet.com](mailto:mbstyles@btinternet.com) or (602) 955-5007.*

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**Leo & Karen's  
California View...**  
by Leo & Karen

"A SPLASH of color in an otherwise dismal day," was how Winston Churchill described Queen Elizabeth's wedding in 1947. Or, to-day, the Ladies answer to wars, earthquakes, Tsunamis, and Civil Unrest: A Royal Wedding! And why not?

The media must have read last month's column, listening to me whining about the State of the Universe, as there was a mass exodus to London. Kate Couric, Jane Seymour, Barbara Walters, Cat Deely, Sharon Osborne, Diane Sawyer, Matt Lauer, Martin Bashir, Matt Frei and Katy Kay of the BBC, and Canadian Anderson Cooper, (an estimated 9,000 news media in all) are all across the Pond covering the marriage between Prince William and Catherine Middleton, and it's been non-stop ever since.

Although Jane went way too far taking a hot air balloon from her old home/castle over the English countryside soaring over my favorite city of Bath! Followed the next night by a Pub Crawl along the canals, walking along the tow paths, showing off the barges. That was cruel. Now we have to go back this year to visit as I'm homesick!

In an American poll only six percent of the US was interested in the wedding yet it's been estimated that 45 percent of the country will be watching with 2.5 billion would world wide. What joy! And what a welcome relief. It really is Spring!

Let the dancing begin! Have women finally had enough of wars? That's a man thing. Marriage, now that's a time to celebrate, as that's a girl thing. Hey, it's good to be married. You can't be happy all your life! I never knew



**Pamela Bennett at The British Connection in Torrance celebrating the Royal Wedding.**

what sleeping alone was like 'til I got married. (just jesting)

The media has covered every aspect and every angle, including the edible flowers on the cake. Jay Leno (Tonight Show) even showed Barbara Walters at her best, interviewing the Royal couple in bed on their wedding night! (Kind of!)

Kate Middleton's home village of Bucklebury has a star attraction: the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker are all attending the wedding, and that also includes a real character, John Hurley, the landlord of The Olde Boot Inn.

The British Commonwealth Association of San Francisco organized an Annual Ball to celebrate Her Majesty's 85th birthday to coincide with the Royal Wedding at the International Mark Hopkins Hotel. Cameron's Inn in Half Moon Bay held their own wedding celebration to be videoed and sent to the happy couple!

Local television has interviewed every Brit in LA. Jean Karasek of Oh, Fancy That, was featured three times throughout the week. Staff writer Nick Green of the Daily Breeze wrote a feature article on Brits in the South

Bay showing how business was booming for those who were celebrating the occasion. Pamela Bennett of The British Connection in Torrance was pictured surrounded by Royal memorabilia which has all been sold, especially the Royal China. Michael said, "It was our best week ever. We could have doubled the sales, had we had the stock! We're out of everything including the *UU* paper. The *White Harte* drove 50 miles and cleaned us out of flags and bunting. We felt very Royal with the newspaper and television coverage!"

The *Whale and Ale* put on a special Bachelor/Bachelorette Pub Night. The *Cat & Fiddle* in Hollywood threw a "Tiaras and Pajamas: a Live Royal Wedding Viewing Party." The *Fox and Hounds* in Studio City did "William's Bachelor Party." The *Kings Head* had a fabulous Afternoon Tea. And at The *White Harte* in Woodland Hills the guests were expected to dress as if they are attending a wedding.

Raffi at the *Press Room* in Santa Barbara phoned and asked where were we? He and Carol closed the Pub at 2am, and reopened at 3am for a packed house party. Everyone dressed for the wedding, with one customer actually having a cousin attending the Royal Wedding. We sold out of Pimm's. He asked if I had seen the young couple leave Buckingham Palace in an open top Aston Martin and drive around London with "JUST Married" plates on the boot!

There were an estimated 5,000 parties across the UK. My thoughts: there were two marriages that day-William and Kate and The People with The Monarchy. Would it be possible to have a youthful monarchy in the early part of the 21st Century? Definitely a legacy left by Lady Diana.

Jackie at The *Olde Ship* in Santa Ana stated "they had two complete showings of the wedding. We were sadly turning people away as it was so busy!"

I stayed up to record and ended up glued to the telly until 6am. Had one hour sleep then up for a four hour youth sail I'd forgotten I'd agreed to. It was windy as hell with 6-8' seas running. Knowing we had arranged to cover the *Royal Society of St George* dinner dance, organized by *Marion and Peter White* at The Proud Bird in LA, we kidnapped one of the crew to help prop me up for the evening.

*Kendra Allenby* (New Jersey) was a blessing as she was the hit of the party: young, attractive and charming, more than I felt. Over one million people descended upon London. All the hotels are fully booked. The Royals being protected by 1,200 Guardsmen, 200 on horseback, six helicopters, and 30,000 police (not a good time to protest or be anti-royalist). If the Royal Cavalry doesn't get you, the police or spectators will. Prince

William, serving in the RAF, received a Royal Fly Past from his pals. Leading the flyover a Spitfire, Hurricane, and a Lancaster (which I actually got to fly in).

Westminster Abbey was all spruced up and lined with trees and plants, maybe to look like Sherwood Forest. There was a fanfare by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force. An organist with 48 strong choir and London Chamber Choir boys performing.

Is that a fairy tale or a living theatre, and who does that better than the Brits. I watched PBS presentation of the wedding of *Queen Elizabeth to Prince Philip* November 20, 1947. She was 21-years-old, looked stunningly beautiful and enormously gracious. And to think she had served our nation steadfastly and diligently all these years. An amazing lady! In those days 200 million listened on the radio and watched newscasts in theatres.

*Gracie Fields* got so carried away she came out onto her balcony and sang to the crowd. *Now is the Hour*. Even an old romantic like myself can't help but be touched by the way the Brits come together for such occasions. I'm proud of the country I grew up in. We should make all Americans honorary British subjects for these royal occasions.

All in all, a royal clean-up from all those visitors, with a huge number of happy people enjoying an extra holiday to watch the celebrations. So let's host a pint to the Royal Couple in celebrating their special day, and to all the other party-goers wishing them well. Thank you William and Kate for a life time of memo-

ries and a where were you moment.

Whether you're for or against the Royals really doesn't matter. What is unequalled is the spirit of the UK. Keep the flag flying with business/tourism booming. That is unless you're an anti-British, Rule Britannia!! or should I say, The Ladies/Women Rule!!

The *Moody Blues* will be appearing around California and the US. We will be covering them May 17 in Santa Barbara. Something to really look forward to, especially after dining on fish and chips at *Mac's Fish and Chips* on Main St (805) 897-1160.

Also on the music circuit, and not to be missed, *Peter Ascher* with a "Musical Memoir of the 60s and Beyond" featuring music of *Peter and Gordon* who were the creative team behind great songs like *World Without Love*, *I Go to Pieces*, *Lady Godiva*, and *True Love Ways* one of Buddy Holly's greatest hits.

*Karen* and I have known Peter for some time now and probably saw one of the last performances with *Gordon Walker*. We can't wait to enjoy this show at *The Canyon Club* in Agoura Hills May 19 (818) 879-5016. Birthdays: *Queen Elizabeth II* 85; *Roger Taylor* (Duran Duran) 51; *Alan Price* (The Animals); *Emma Thompson* 52; *Emma Watson* 21; *Julie Christie* 71; *Ritchie Blackmore* 66; *Eric Clapton* 68; *Ewan McGregor* 40; *Graeme Edge* (Moody Blues) 70; *Robbie Coltrane* 61; *Jane Asher* 65; *Julian Lennon* 48; *Haley Mills* 65; *Iggy Pop* 64; *George Cole* 86; *Peter Frampton* 61; *Janis Ian* 60; *David Frost* 72. 50th anniversary of Marion and Peter White.

## Karen's California Events Calendar

### MAY

**\*Upcoming BritWeek events indicated with an asterisk. *www.britweek.org***  
\*1: British Car Show 1-4pm. South Coast Plaza.

\*1-4: MUSEXPO 7th annual International Music, Media & Technology Conference and BBC Showcase at S.I.R.

*Cameron's Inn of Half Moon Bay* is enjoying more fabulous weather which means more BBQ on the patio, more pints on the patio, and good conversation on the patio (650) 726-5705.

\*2: *Duffy Photo Exhibition* and Art of Tasting British with British Celebrity Chef Mark Hix at Stephen Webster in Beverly Hills.

\*3: *Three Days (of Hamlet)* Sneak Preview and Tea Party 3-6pm Landmark Theatres at Pico and Westwood.

\*4: *Salute to British Design* with By Chromed Hooves it Travels Now: Recent Works by John Andrew, Steve Green, Paul Hosking, Peter Lamb, and Neal Rock: Tea Time 2:30-4pm Lee Jofa Showroom (Suite B639), Keynote: British Tastemakers in Los Angeles 4pm - 5pm at Blue Conference Center, Rock n Roll Reception 5pm - 7pm at Andrew Martin International Showroom (Suite B292).

\*5: *The Christopher Guy/BritWeek Design Award* at Christopher Guy Showroom 9699 Wilshire Blvd Beverly Hills 90212 (310) 385-7876.

\*5: *Golf Tournament Noon Shotgun Start* at Tustin Ranch Golf Club.

\*5-June 5: An original Magna Carta on Display at the Legion of Honor.

The Lookout Pub of Channel Islands Harbor in Oxnard is a great place to bring Mom for Mother's Day with Sunday Afternoon Jazz (805) 985-9300.

7: The Botany Bay Chapter of the DBE is holding Contact Leo and Karen at PO Box 5691 Oxnard, CA 93031 or britishlad12@yahoo.com

ing a fundraiser at 4pm for The British Home in Sierra Madre at North Clubhouse 6450 Camino del Parque in Carlsbad 92009 (760) 761-4841. *jlewis7910@aatt.net*

7-8: Sacramento Valley Scottish Games and Gathering at Yolo County Fairgrounds in Woodland *www.sacallie.org/games/games.php*

7-8: Cain's Crossing Renaissance Faire at Auburn Regional Park, 3880 Richardson Dr. in Auburn *www.caincrossing.org*

7-June 19: Crossroads Koroneburg European Old World Festival at Riverview Park Corona/Norco 92880. (951) 735-0101. *www.renais-sanceinfo.com/interview*

8, 14, 28: Join Ye Olde Kings Head of Santa Monica for Mothers day May 8, May 14 FA Cup Final, Champions League Final May 28 and celebrate the entire Memorial Weekend with them (310) 451-1402

14, 21, 28: *Mayflower Club of N Hollywood* will special I am the Melody cabaret show 21st Clubnite 28th (818) 769-9805.

14-15: *Queen Bess & the Pirates* at Roeding Park, Fresno 93726 (559) 392-0965. *www.queenbessandthepirates.com*

17: *The Moody Blues* in concert at The Granada Theatre, Santa Barbara (805) 899-2222

19: *Peter Ascher* in concert at The Canyon Club *www.canyonclub.net*

19-22: *Calaveras County Faire & Jumping Frog Jubilee* at Calaveras County Faire & Frog-town Angels Camp 95222 *www.frogtown.org* (209) 736-2561

21-22: A Golden Age Pirate Festival in Corona/Norco *www.renaissanceinfo.com/pirate/* (951) 735-0101

Thru May 22: Renaissance Pleasure Faire of SoCal at Santa Fe Dam in Inwandle 605 & 210 FWY *www.renair.com* (626) 969-4750. 1-800-52-faire.

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28-29: Lake Renaissance Festival at Tuscan Village, 16175 Main St. in Lower Lake 95457 *www.lakerenfest.com*

22-29: United Scottish Society Highland Gathering And Festival at Costa Mesa Fairgrounds, Southern California *www.scotfest.com*

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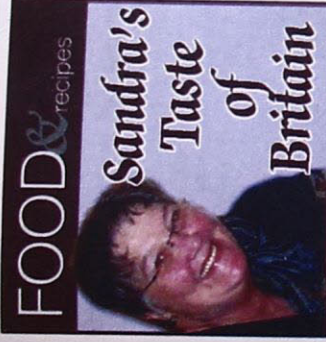
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I used the Brit Club board as my official testers, and featured it again for our recent well... literally! If you can't find the Digestive or Rich Tea biscuits - available at your local Brit store - use graham crackers. I find also that it is much easier to melt the chocolate in the microwave, just be sure to do it a few seconds at a time, and stir frequently, if it clumps together add a few drops of hot water.  
Hope you like my version, it's very easy

#### Prince William's alternative Wedding Cake

1/4 pound butter  
1/2 lb semisweet chocolate  
(I used Baker's baking chocolate)  
1 14oz can condensed milk  
1 250gm packet of Digestive biscuits  
1 200gm packet of Rich Tea biscuits  
1/2 cup chopped glace cherries  
1/2 cup raisins  
(Variety of chopped nuts, optional)

Crush the biscuits in a large bowl or in a processor. Add the chopped cherries, raisins and optional nuts. *(I didn't add them as I felt it would be too dry, and a lot of people can't eat nuts)* mix well. Place the butter, condensed milk, and half of the chocolate in a glass bowl and place in microwave. Set the power at two, and a few seconds at a time, stir until smooth and melted evenly. If you don't have a microwave, you can melt the chocolate mixture

in a saucepan on the top of the cooker, again keep stirring to keep it smooth. Pour the chocolate mixture over the crushed biscuits mix, and mix well until evenly coated. Line a square pan with waxed paper (or greaseproof paper if you have it) and pour the mixture into it. Press down and smooth out evenly. Freeze about 2 hours, and when needed take out an hour before serving, or keep in the fridge. Melt the remaining chocolate and decorate the top swizzling it around. Cut into small pieces... it is very rich. Keep refrigerated until serving.

*(I welcome comments, suggestions and recipes and can be reached at Yourcup-pate1@yahoo.com. I hope all you Mums have a special Mother's Day, celebrate twice with it being different dates in the UK (April 3) & USA (May 8))*

AT TIME of writing, we are looking forward to the upcoming nuptials of Prince William and Miss Middleton. We decided at the Sarasota British Club that the event warranted a special do, and we are having a splendid afternoon tea at The Ritz in Sarasota... we don't do things by halves! Most of the ladies, including yours truly, are even planning to tart up a bit and wear hats... I look a proper Charlie in one, but it's all for fun! Since the wedding will be early morning on the time, we plan to tape/dvr it and have arranged to show it at the Ritz on their large screen throughout the tea. I am setting my recorders to the BBC America and ABC news version, and plan to sit and enjoy watching over that weekend. I know there has been a lot of controversy about the Royal Family, but what family doesn't have controversy. However I still feel a sense of pride that the monarchy is still going on and feel that Queen Elizabeth has ruled with great dignity. Things change however and by the time William becomes King, he will I think, bring it into the current times while still maintaining the tradition.

Any road, the *Daily Mail* are doing several features on the wedding, and according to other sources also there are to be two wedding cakes. The main one will be the traditional fruit cake with the marzipan icing, but also one of Prince William's favourite cake will be featured. It is like a chocolate brownie/cake/confectionary. The recipe featured in the *Daily Mail* was adapted by Nigella Lawson, and I have experimented and tweaked it a bit to be able to make here. It isn't baked, and I remember making something very similar in my "Domestic Science" (Home Economics) classes many years ago.

## Prime Minister Calls For Immigration Curbs

BRITAIN must cut immigration dramatically to ease social strain, Prime Minister David Cameron said last month, telling supporters the influx of newcomers was putting serious pressure on some communities.

Cameron said large-scale immigration had caused "discomfort and disappointment" in some parts of the country.

"I want to get the policy right: good immigration, not mass immigration," he said.

The comments were strongly criticized by a member of Cameron's own coalition government, who said they could inflame extremism.

Cameron said in a speech to members of his Conservative Party that Britain had

"benefited immeasurably" from immigration, but that the number of newcomers had become too high. He said 2.2 million more people came to live in Britain than left between 1997 and 2009, putting "real pressure on communities up and down the country."

The two parties have governed jointly since a national election last May, but are running against one another for local and regional elections next month.

"The reference to the tens of thousands of immigrants rather than hundreds of thousands is not part of the coalition agreement. It is Tory party policy only," Cable said.

"I do understand there is an election coming but talk of mass immigration risks inflaming the extremism to which he and I are both strongly opposed," he added.

### REDUCE

He said the government would reduce net immigration from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands a year by limiting the number of work visas granted to people from outside the European Union and cracking down on bogus language schools.

Businesses and universities have complained that capping immigration could stop them recruiting the best staff and

## Britain Bans Exports Of Execution Drugs To US

BUSINESS Secretary Vince Cable said that Britain will block the export of three lethal injection drugs to the United States and is also urging a Europe-wide ban on American sales of the drugs.

Britain's block on exports of pentobarbital, pancuronium bromide and potassium chloride was formalized within weeks. In November, Britain blocked exports of the sedative sodium thiopental for use in executions following a legal challenge from a human rights group.

"We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances and are clear that British drugs should not be used to carry out lethal injections," Cable said. "Because of the importance and urgency of the situation this is an issue on which we felt we had to take the lead."

Britain has urged the European Commission to expand the export ban to all European Union nations, Cable added.

Reprieve, the London-based group for prisoner rights that sought the ban, welcomed the news but it said US states imposing the death penalty via lethal injection are now turning to a Danish company, Lundbeck A/S, for supplies of pentobarbital.

Denmark's foreign minister said she will urge US states such as Texas and Ohio to stop using that drug.

## Margate To Be Revived With Art

IN A TOWN that has seen better days, this is a red-letter day.

For years in the seaside town of Margate, things have shut down - shops, hotels, the Dreamland amusement park that used to draw crowds of visitors to this trash resort.

Last month, however, brought an opening, the launch of a £17m art gallery, said. "The whole atmosphere of the area has been transformed."

That's a big claim for an art gallery, but Turner Contemporary is ambitious. It is part of a plan to remake this town, one of the most deprived in England, where a vanished tourist trade has left buildings empty and high levels of unemployment. Joblessness in the poorest parts of Margate is three times the regional average.

The gallery draws on Margate's links with 19th-century artist J.M.W. Turner, who declared the skies in England's windswept southeast corner "the loveliest in all Europe."

### The Turner Contemporary Art Gallery.

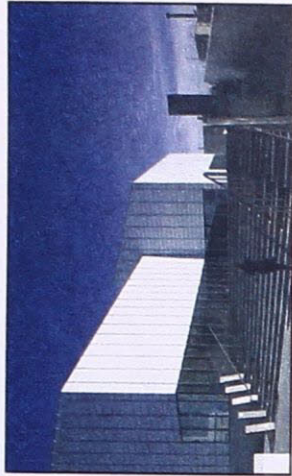
Today those magnificent skies look down on a long, sandy beach, and on a seafloor pocked with dilapidated Victorian villas, shuttered shops and the boarded-up Dreamland with its skeletal rides.

Turner Contemporary is one of a slew of new theaters, museums and galleries built in Britain with large dollops of public funding during the boom years that ended with 2007's credit crunch. It will also be one of the last for a while.

Hundreds of arts groups have been told their funding will be cut as the government slashes £80bn pounds from public spending by 2015 in a bid to reduce Britain's deficit.

Businesses are struggling, too, as Britain emerges shakily from recession. It's not the ideal time to be launching such an ambitious renewal project.

"It could scarcely be worse," said Mike Hill, a cabinet member of the regional Kent County Council. "The only way is up."



## UK Admits Torture In Kenya In 1950s

By Meera Selva

BRITAIN'S Foreign Office has admitted that some Kenyans were tortured and killed during an anti-colonial rebellion in the 1950s, but denies the current government has any responsibility for the survivors.

The government was in London's High Court last month to defend itself against a suit by four elderly Kenyans who claim they were tortured by officers acting for the British administration who were trying to suppress the "Mau Mau" rebellion, where groups of Kenyans attacked British officials and white farmers who had settled in some of Kenya's most fertile lands.

In 1952, then-Prime Minister Winston

Churchill declared a state of emergency in the country and sent British soldiers to help colonial administrators capture the fighters and send them to detention camps. African soldiers under the King's African Rifles regiment also took part in the British assault on the Mau Mau and their supporters.

President Barack Obama's grandfather, Hussein Onyango Obama, was one of thousands of Kenyans detained.

The four Kenyan claimants who flew to London for the court case say they were severely beaten and sexually assaulted by European and African soldiers, officers and prison guards inside the detention camps. Two male claimants - Ndiku Mutua and

Paolo Nzili - said they were castrated, and Jane Muthoni Mara said she was violently sexually assaulted.

They say British administrators were aware they were being mistreated, and want an apology and compensation from the British government.

Foreign Office lawyer Robert Jay admitted last month that several Kenyans were "screened" or tortured and interrogated inside the detention camps, but argued that Britain had not explicitly enacted a law that said prisoners were to be severely beaten or tortured, and it could not be held responsible for the abuses.

The court case could prove a huge head-

ache for the British government, which fears it may lead to similar claims from citizens of other former colonies who also hold grievances over the way they were treated under British rule.

The Foreign Office admitted earlier this week that it has discovered thousands of files containing sensitive information about how its officials behaved in the waning years of the British Empire. It was forced to reveal the existence of these files after law firm Leigh Day, which is representing the Kenyan claimants, appealed to the High Court that the government open secret documents detailing how the rebels were treated.

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# The Florida Page

81,000 Readers in Florida By Patricia Kawaja

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MY COLUMN went to press before the Royal wedding alas, so can't comment on Her Dress and all the gripping details. But as a life-long Royalist – it's what distinguishes the UK from non-descript faded nations – am soaking up every drop of the coverage on US stations. My house is like a newsroom with three TV's in different rooms blaring out Royal wedding info. CNN uses that aggravating Richard Quest with his nasal voice and bulldozer style delivery, just because he's a Brit. I switch over when he comes on. Caught up in the whole fol-de-rol of it, I even downloaded the recipe for Prince William's Chocolate Biscuit wedding cake. (Email me if you want it). On the wedding night while Prince Harry gets sloshed at the après-party he organised at the Palace, I'm staying home to view après-wedding commentaries analyzing every detail. Royal Wedding obsessed – shamelessly guilty. Envious, too: Lucky Kate, being transformed overnight into HRH Princess Catherine with her juice squeezed by a butler – sigh.

(FOOTNOTE: Mercifully the emails will stop from American marketers pushing a cheap copy of the Princess Diana/Kate sapphire ring, boasting a certificate of authenticity. There's nothing more appealing than a Certified Fake that two other women have worn before, eh Girls?)

■ **MELBOURNE'S Florida Institute of Technology** hosts an exhibition of English-designed fabrics called "British Bolls: Artists' Fabrics of the Mid-Century." Running May 21 to August 27. This reveals the Postwar efforts to give Britons a feeling of recovery, progress and the promotion of better-quality "national" design. British Bolls examines the variety of aesthetic influences and approaches of British designers of the period. Featured are British designers Terence Conran, Marino Marini, Henry Moore,

John Piper, William Scott, Lucienne Day. Pervasively used by Americans when they do something wrong, I am baffled. Is it short for "Am I bad?" Or "I am so bad." Bad is an adjective so can't be possessed. So how can you own a bad? Somebody make me happy by explaining.

■ **(Reprinted from March issue):**

**SWINDLER OF FLORIDA BRITS CONVICTED:** American Doug Hall was sentenced to nine years after swindling various British families out of \$6m by promising bogus immigration services and fake E2 businesses. He set up Central Florida Visa Group in Lakeland. Hall pleaded no contest February 11, 2011 to 16 counts of grand theft at a court in Bartow, Florida. Among those who lost out was one Briton who lost £150,000, given to Hall to buy a dive business in south Florida. He sold his England home in the hope of starting a new Florida life but lost all in this visa scam. Prosecutor Nicole Orr said: "Hall created the illusion that the victims would be approved for an immigration visa and that the money was safe." He attracted many of his clients by attending trade shows in the UK. Readers, if you want an honest immigration firm or business broker in Florida, just ask me. I know them all by reputation after 20 years of dealings with them. Hall is just the latest immigration crook over the years – a few of these scoundrels were Brits robbing their own countrymen. Most of those were never caught, disappearing back to the UK. I think Hall was caught because he is American and could not flee.

■ **TRAVEL NOTES: VIRGIN AMERICA** has teamed with JetBlue, both airlines used heavily by Florida Brits, to offer this new convenience: Since April 1, 2011, you can now fly on both airlines with a single JetBlue-Virgin Atlantic ticket. Ask each airline for details

■ **UK-USA LANGUAGE IRKS:** What on earth does this nonsensical, non-grammatical

■ **TO PRISONERS IN CALIFORNIA** JAILS: Please stop writing to me. Because some lonely, desperate women write to me and marry prisoners, bored male inmates may write to any female for whom they have an address. The letters are handwritten (so I can't even whizz off a quick received email) and some are even from bad Brits doing time. One even came from San Quentin Big Bad House – scary because you don't land in there for jaywalking. Every letter (pages-long pouring out their hearts and life-story) is polite, sincere, not asking for money or romance. But they want me to start a correspondence. Out of kindness and politeness, I send a short acknowledgement postcard (so guards can see) saying I cannot correspond further. To the fellow in California City Jail – my postcard to you was returned by USPS. But please all Jailbird Fans, stop writing.

■ **NEW BRITISH BUSINESS:** Dickens English Tearoom in Lake Mary, Central Florida (407) 416-7780 Phone English owner Debbie Arrigal to find out what's on offer. **COLUMN SUBMISSIONS:** Just opened a British business in the last three months? Email details for possible publication here to [britishflorida@aol.com](mailto:britishflorida@aol.com) Your name, city, daytime phone necessary.

■ **FT LAUDERDALE:** Films from the UK are shown year-round at the Cinema Paradiso in downtown Ft Lauderdale, run by the Ft Lauderdale International Film Festival. They

also hold British film evenings. For a list of such films showing go to their website [www.britishflorida.com](http://www.britishflorida.com) or phone (954) 525-FILM.

■ **BRITISH CLUBS CORNER ...Welsh focus this month** for terrific Taffies because you have a Prince and Princess living there now

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■ **BEST OF BRITISH CORNER** honours the funniest man we ever produced – TOMMY COOPER (1921-1984) who made you roar before he'd even spoken. So I share one classic gem each month: *Two blondes walk into a building ... you'd think at least one of*

them would have seen it. (View Tommy Cooper's act on YouTube now).

■ **British-American Chambers of Commerce (BACC)** chapters hold business and social events throughout the year. Run by volunteers, their officers change frequently, so phone each for current info.

**FT LAUDERDALE:** BACC President Roy Yates (954) 942-7330.

**MIAMI:** BACC (305) 582-9769 David Munn.

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*The opinions in this column are Patricia Kawaja's and not necessarily shared by Union Jack Publishing.*

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## Juvenile Arrested In Death Of Two British Tourists

By Larry Gardner

TRAGEDY struck the lives of two Northampton men vacationing on the West coast of Florida, April 16, when their boys night out, ended in disaster.

James Kouzaris, 24, and James Cooper, 25, holidaying with extended family on Longboat Key, apparently went into Sarasota, looking for an all-night restaurant. They ended up in a government housing complex in Newtown, where their vacation came to a deadly end after both were shot. Some twenty shell casings were found in the immediate area.



Shawn Tyson

Sixteen-year-old Shawn Tyson, a local resident, was arrested for both murders. Only 12 hours earlier he had been released from a juvenile facility for another shooting incident. He was refused bail and put back in the juvenile detention centre, where it is expected, he'll be charged as an adult facing double first degree murder charges.

Although not clear on facts, police suspected the two British men accepted a lift, unaware that the occupants had other motives; or perhaps the pair had lost their way in search of a 24-hour IHOP restaurant.

According to Sarasota police captain Paul Sutton, the two men were shot attempting to escape a desperate situation.

## Cheeky Monkeys Causing A Spectacle At Zoo

DON'T BE surprised, when walking by the monkey cage at London Zoo if one or two of the inhabitants are wearing a nice pair of sunglasses.

The keepers are currently battling to train their Bolivian squirrel monkeys out of their habit of stealing visitors' sunglasses. The zoo's gang of 18 Bolivian squirrel monkeys have stolen seven pairs of sunglasses off the heads of visitors recently weeks, according to the BBC.

Keeper Kate Saunders, 28, said: "They love to see their reflection in the lenses... the young ones, they are the cheekiest. They love the glasses the most."

"They are attracted to the shiny lenses on the sunglasses. Once they get hold of a pair they all race round the enclosure chasing the monkey with the glasses."

The zoo plans to wear the monkeys off thieving by giving them sunglasses with bitter apple sprayed on them as a deterrent. Four years ago the thieving monkeys underwent another rehabilitation programme after stealing mobile phones.

It is now hoped that the shades will taste so unpleasant that visitors' sunglasses will no longer be a target for the monkeys.



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## Toddler Falls From Balcony Into Arms Of British Tourist

By Larry Gardner

WHEN HELEN BEARD, 44, of Work-sop, Nottinghamshire, ambled down to the pool of her Econo Lodge Hotel in Orlando, Florida, April 21, she was amazed to see a small child hanging precariously from the outside of a fourth-floor balcony.

She positioned herself under the balcony, and was successful in breaking the child's fall as she plunged the 40ft down. Beard held onto 16-month old Jah-Nea Myles until emergency services arrived.

The mother of the child Helena Myles, 20, said she was in the bathroom

at the time and her friend was keeping an eye on her daughter, but she had somehow wriggled out on to the balcony. The baby was taken to a local hospital and found to have suffered no harm from the fall.

"I'm thanking the Lord above right now," said the shocked and much relieved mother. "I'm also thanking that lady because she was an angel sent from heaven."

Beard, from Llandudno, was later acknowledged by the Orange County police with a bravery award.

The Police Department said criminal charges would not be filed.

## Killer Of British Tourist Gets 21-Years

sorry for what happened.

A NEW JERSEY man apologized last month for fatally stabbing a vacationing British tourist outside a bar and said he's glad he didn't end up dead like his victim. He was then sentenced to prison for 21-1/2 years.

Davies, 49, was convicted of reckless manslaughter and weapons offenses stemming from the August 2007 stabbing of Lavern Paul Ritch of Wales. Davies said he acted in self-defense, thinking Ritch was part of a group out to hurt or kill him.

Turning in the courtroom to look at Ritch's brother and best friend, who refused to look back at him, the handcuffed Davies cried as he repeatedly said he was

British adaptation of *American Gladiators* in 1998. A swimming and fitness instructor in Cardiff, Wales, he was listed in a 2002 poll of Britain's 50 most eligible bachelors by *Company* magazine.

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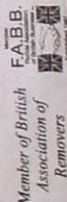
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## Conservationists Make A 'Bee-Line' For The Fields

FARMERS and landowners are being asked to plant rows of wildflowers along the edges of England's fields to create a network of "bee roads" to boost declining numbers.

Conservationists said last month they hope the wildflowers will provide food and shelter for wild bees, honeybees and butterflies, which play a crucial role in pollinating crops.

As part of the initiative, wildlife charity Buglife and The Co-operative grocery store chain are donating seeds, such as knapweed and red clover, to farmers and landowners in the Northern English county of Yorkshire, and asking them to plant them in rows along the edge of their fields.

Britain has 250 species of bees, but—as in other countries—most are in decline. Scientists say pesticides, disappearing habitat, wet weather and a parasite called the varroa mite are among the culprits.

Bees are needed to pollinate crops that feed the world's growing population.

The United Nations' environmental agency UNEP estimates that of the 100 crop species that provide 90 percent of the world's food, more than 70 are pollinated by bees. UNEP said in a report last month that the world's bee population is likely to continue declining unless habitats are protected, and suggested that farmers and landowners are offered incentives to restore them.

Paul Monaghan, head of The Co-operative's charitable arm, said Britain's honeybee population has halved, partly because the country has lost 97 percent of its wildflower meadows since the 1930s. Conservationists hope the rows of flowers will encourage bees to roam over greater distances and cross-pollinate more. If the program is successful, it will be expanded across Britain.

"By setting up these bee roads we hope to make life easier for all pollinators and reverse their alarming decline," said Monaghan.

## Senior Officer Killed In UK Nuclear Sub Shooting

BRITAIN'S defense ministry has confirmed that a Royal Navy officer was shot dead by a fellow sailor aboard a nuclear powered submarine.

The Ministry of Defense said last month that Lt Cmdr Ian Molyneux died when he was shot by another crew member aboard HMS Astute.

Molyneux was the sub's weapons engineer. A second officer was seriously wounded.

A junior sailor is being held on suspicion of murder.

The submarine was on a goodwill visit to Southampton when the shooting happened Friday. A city councilor who was on a tour of the vessel has described how he wrestled an assault rifle away from the suspect after the sailor opened fire in the submarine's control room.

Officials say the incident was not related to terrorism.

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"IT'S THE START of a new business: a good time for the MG brand," quoted Guy Jones of MG. Local MP Richard Burdon made a more enthusiastic comment when he said "Today is a real milestone for Longbridge and the automotive industry in the West Midlands." It was the day when the first new MG rolled off the production line at the Longbridge factory in sixteen years. It is the MG6.

Truth be told it is not the first MG car to roll out of the Longbridge plant in sixteen years; as limited numbers of the MG TF sports car have been produced there, but the MG6 is the first new design under the present ownership of the marque. The MG brand is now owned by Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC), and this new MG model is their first new offering of the iconic brand since acquiring the marque from the now defunct MG-Rover Group. The MG-Rover was actually purchased, not by SAIC but the Nanjing Automotive Corporation (NAC) and it seems that NAC bit off a little more than they could chew in resurrecting the MG and Rover names. The rumors were that the manufacture of MG cars at Longbridge would never happen. The Chinese government quickly stepped in, and a merger of NAC and SAIC took place. In contrast, NAC SAIC became a big player in the car manufacturing league and were able to put versions of the Rover 75 into production badged as a Rover. They weren't allowed to use the Rover name for some legal reason because Ford – and now Tata – figured they owned the rights to the name because of Land Rover (it's complicated so I'll spare the details).

SAIC soon put the MG name back on track, and as a result a design team was assembled once again at Longbridge. Not only was this new MG designed in Britain it would be assembled there from parts made in China. I have to point out that they took a very conservative approach in their new design and only time will tell if this was the correct approach in terms of success. It's not a sports car as is befitting for a car bearing the famous MG logo but a four/seven seat small family saloon car. There is a host of these types of cars available from a host of different manufacturers so I wonder why add another, and how can they compete with much more established manufacturers, some of whom are still struggling to meet sales targets? Pricewise they may have some advantage as the Chinese can produce parts more competitively than in other countries, but at £14,495 for the base model this new MG6 is not exactly a giveaway. I certainly feel the use of the MG name will be more helpful than a name no one has heard of before. However, I can't help thinking that to revive the MG badge to anywhere near its former glory a much more innovative and riskier design approach might have been better. So, today, they have what they have, and this new MG car will be available this month in Britain and Europe.

As observed, style-wise the MG6 looks much like many others, but even this is typical these days. If one omitted the brand name badge from the back of 70 percent of four-seat family saloons, it would be near impossible to tell what their brand was, and, on first looks the MG6 falls right into this category. It is a 1.8 litre turbo charged, four-cylinder, engine-powered car with a top speed of



The MG Marque Lives On With MG6 Release.

around 120mph. A reasonable 0-60mph can be achieved in approximately 8.2 seconds, which is about the average for this type of car. It is a hatchback which may put some people off who may be seeking a mid-sized family car, but I think that aspect of the style looks fine, as it looks a little sportier than your average 'bread-and-butter' mid-size car. The MG6 also has all of the modern conveniences that most new cars have, keyless entry and push-button start etc.

According to most of the press reports it is a well-built car and handles nicely. I must point out, that I haven't yet actually driven, or even seen an MG6 in person, so, perhaps I am being a bit harsh in my initial assessment – though my sources are excellent. I do sincerely hope Shanghai Automotive have success with this model, if for no other reason than to keep Longbridge alive. It was 2005 when the workers walked out of this plant thinking that it was the end of the famous Longbridge automotive facility. This was when the MG-Rover went 'bellyup', and a small design team remained. Then the Chinese took charge, and now with the new MG6 assembly line the total workforce is at an all-time high of 400 persons. I am not by any means an expert in modern motor car production, but even considering all of the parts that go into these new cars will be made in China, a staff of only 400 seems to me to be an incredibly low number of personnel for serious motor car manufacture, but then again it is early days and hopefully there will be a need to ramp up.

There was a point in time when the town of Longbridge was the largest vehicle manufacturing facility in the world, employing over 30,000 workers. It is situated on the outskirts of Birmingham and was started by Berkshire born Herbert Austin in 1905. In the century of its beginnings to the collapse of the MG-Rover group in 2005, this facility has been through highs and lows. It was 1904 when Herbert Austin quit his engineering job at Wolsley with the hope of making his own car; he didn't even own a car at that time looking for a suitable place to build his first motor car. Seven miles outside of the city he happened by a small derelict printing works, and with some financial aid from friends he bought the building. It was Longbridge, the start of it. His first car, a 25-30 HP high class touring car with a four-speed gearbox, rolled out of the gate in 1906 and was delivered at

so good luck to them.  
*Happy Motoring*

## Nissan Suspend Production Due To Japan Quake

NISSAN UK suspended production for three days last month because of supply disruptions caused by the earthquake in Japan.

Nissan's plant in Sunderland in northern England stopped all production between April 26 and April 28.

Those dates fell between a cluster of holidays, so the plant didn't produce any cars between Good Friday and May 1.

Also last month, Honda cut production at its UK factory by 50 percent from April 11 through the end of May.



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## Oh My Lord! Upper Chamber Is Full To Bursting

By David Stringer

SQUEEZE IN SIR, excuse me Earl. Lawmakers say the red leather benches of Britain's House of Lords are packed to bursting – with Parliament's upper chamber straining to cope with the needs of almost 800 members.

Legislators complain the overcrowding means a scramble for seats, office space and slots to speak. Some grumble that an influx of new members has ushered in a bad-tempered atmosphere.

The House of Lords currently has 792 active members, a mix of appointed, hereditary and religious peers. A University College London report published last month warned that the chamber had become "bloated and dysfunctional," and demanded an immediate halt to any new appointments.

"There are far too many members at the moment, and that is causing immense problems, even though not everyone agrees," said Baron George Foulkes, who was appointed to the Lords in 2005.

The 700 year-old chamber does not make laws, but has the power to amend legislation – subject to the agreement of the House of Commons, where lawmakers are elected. House of Lords members are drawn from a host of specialist backgrounds and expected to use their wisdom to help revise planned laws.

### APPOINTED

Aside from 25 members who hold ecclesiastical offices, like the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, and 91 remaining hereditary peers, the remainder are appointed to their posts – some by an independent committee, but the majority by the prime minister.

Since he took office in May, Prime Minister David Cameron has approved the appointment of 117 people as new members of the Lords, the fastest rate since World War II.

Critics accuse him of attempting to alter the political balance of the chamber, as his Conservative Party has fewer members than its main rival, the Labour Party.

Critics note that Cameron's government is creating more unelected peers at the same time as it is pursuing plans to cut 50 elected lawmakers from the 650-member House of Commons.

"It's totally contradictory, and a total hypocrisy," Foulkes said.

Cameron's office said the government next month will propose plans for a fully or partially elected upper chamber. British governments have made repeated attempts to overhaul the Lords but have struggled to push through changes.

## UK To Press US Over Treatment Of Wikileaks Suspect

and punitive, a charge the military has denied.

Manning faces a raft of charges over allegations he supplied classified data to the WikiLeaks secret-spilling site.

The Foreign Office said last month diplomats will raise concerns with the State Department.

British lawmakers held a debate on Manning's treatment.

## Our Man in Orlando, By Hugh Hunter

I NEVER realized that working for the British Consulate could be such an interesting vocation. The Author, Hugh Hunter spent a decade working for the British Consulate in Florida and offers up important insights into the work that is involved.

Aside from aiding tourists in trouble and issuing passports, Hunter spent a great deal of time visiting British Nationals incarcerated in Florida prisons. Reading on I began to feel nervous about my 'over

65 male-order bride business', Hunter has seriously turned me off a life of crime. Crime often ends with time and if there's one thing I've learnt from this really fun read is that the American criminal system is no joke. The sentencing is so tough that one of Hugh Hunter's British prisoners went so far as to concoct a murder he said he committed in the UK when he lived there because if he were sent back to Britain he would only need to serve 15 years for that crime as opposed to the 1,285 years he got for a heist gone wrong with no fatalities in Florida. Wow!

Another woman,

Chantal served 20 years for scamming tens-of-millions of dollars from people who bought her phony infomercial products. Yet Nick Leeson who single handedly defrauded Barings Bank out of £817m in the 1990's (I was actually the mastermind behind that little number but never got caught – no spilling the beans now) served three.

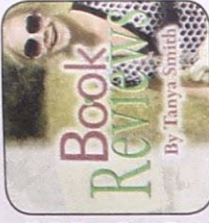
The stories that belong to many of these prisoners at times seem tragic even untair but several are just hilarious, like the woman who got caught when she hired a helicopter to break her husband out of jail or the guy who made a bank robbery on a stolen child-sized red pushbike.

Hunter, over time, becomes disgruntled with the British Consulate and the way that it eventually morphed from a public service into a business, a familiar case with so many British industries and bureaucracies. Not surprisingly budget cuts were imposed that has in effect diluted the services a British national would receive if in trouble abroad. The human element started slipping away. Like many businesses, automated phone services were installed and bonuses were awarded to the strong while the weak were fired. Hunter found himself at odds with many of the decisions made from above, and I often felt that the decisions made were undemocratic and unlawful, which not only left a bad taste in Hunter's mouth but in mine too. That said, Hunter's dedication to his job, his wit and his great knack for storytelling makes *Our Man in Orlando* a worthwhile read. And if you are considering pulling a Ronny Biggs, this novel will reveal what you can expect if you get caught.

I almost forgot, I'm going to give *Our Man in Orlando* three tea cups and a lump of sugar!

(Five is the top Teacup score)

Let Tanya know how many teacups you give the books. Site recommends in this column. Email: tanyaasm1@yahoo.com







By Martin Burniston

Tel: (713) 256-1173 Email: mburniston@gmail.com

Britons in Texas  
MBE for Howard

I HAVE been remiss in passing on our congratulations to **Kevin Howard**, of the Royal Bank of Scotland and Chairman of the British American Business Council, Houston, who was awarded the MBE last summer for services to British business interests and charitable activities in Houston, USA. British-born, and staunch Manchester United fan, Kevin has been a resident of Houston since his arrival with NatWest in 1990. Apart from his duties as the head of RBS's Energy investment banking team in Houston, Kevin has also been a member of the board of directors of the Houston Grampian Association, and together with his wife **Susan**, he is a member of the board of BAFTX, the British-American Foundation of Texas, which provides scholar-



Kevin Howard, MBE.

ships for academically gifted and financially challenged students. Well done, Sir!

#### 2011 Houston Highland Games Cancelled

Due to extenuating circumstances, the 2011 Houston Highland Games and Celtic Festival, normally held in May of each year, has been cancelled. The Houston Highland Games Association (HHGA) has been fostering interests in the culture and heritage of Scotland for over thirty-eight years. It is hoped that the Games will return stronger than ever in 2012.

**Houston Dynamo – Bolton Wanderers**  
Early reports that **Houston Dynamo** football club would be playing host to **Bolton Wanderers** in a summer 2011 tournament in Texas have been put in doubt by the unfortunate injury to **Stuart Holden**. Stuart is a former Houston Dynamo player who is making his name in the English Premier Division with Bolton. He has been receiving many accolades for his quality of play, and the Dynamo were very excited at the prospect of Stuart's return to Houston with the Bolton team. Sadly, he received a serious injury in a game against Manchester United which will keep him out of the game for possibly six months.

#### Houston Symphony – Who?

What a way to start the July 4 Holiday weekend! **The Houston Symphony** will be hosting the World Premiere of **The Music of The Who** at Jones Hall, on Friday, July 1 @ 7:30pm. You will be able to hear orchestral renditions of **My Generation**, **Pinball Wizard**, **Who Are You** and other Who classics. Call (713) 224-7575 for ticket information. For Group Sales call (713) 238-1435.

**Ian Rankin at Murder by the Book**  
I'm sorry to say that I missed the recent visit to Houston by award-winning mystery writer **Ian Rankin**. Ian was at **Murder By The Book** to discuss and sign his newest book, **The Complaints**. I had the delightful pleasure of interviewing, and drinking a glass or two of Merlot, with Ian a few years ago. He is an incredibly interesting person, with a great sense of humour (bordering on the wicked-side!). The Rebus books, written by Ian, have seen

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much success, and have been made into television programmes which aired on ITV, and in the USA on Masterpiece Theatre.

#### Double Treat for Texas G & S Fans

Fans of Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas are in for a special treat this summer. In addition to his annual duty as Director and guest performer of the **Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Houston's** summer production, **Alistair Donkin**, former member of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and for many years (many, many years – it's an inside joke!) a performer and director with international G & S groups, will be joining **San Antonio Opera** for a production of **HMS Pinafore**. Alistair will direct and also star as Sir Joseph Porter in the performances which will run June 10 through 12 at the Lila Cockrell Theatre. For information about these performances and for ticket information telephone (210) 225-5972 or go to [www.sagopera.com](http://www.sagopera.com). After Alistair brings down the curtain in the Alamo City, he heads off to Houston where he will be directing the G&S Society of Houston's **The Mikado**, which will run July 15, 16, 22, 23, 2011 @ 8pm and July 17, 24, 2011 @ 2:30pm at the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. For more information about the G&S Society of Houston and for ticket information, go to [www.gilbertandsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertandsullivan.org) or telephone (713) 627-3570.

#### Hawking at A & M

A sell-out crowd of 2,800 was on-hand for world-famous University of Cambridge physicist **Stephen Hawking's** public lecture, **The Origin of the Universe**, on Sunday, April 3, at Texas A&M University's Mitchell Institute in College Station, Texas. Professor Hawking reached veritable superstar proportions as all tickets for the 2,500 seat Rudder Auditorium were sold-out just two weeks after going on sale. He intrigued the crowd, asking the age-old question, "Why are we here, and where did we come from?" Stephen Hawking is becoming quite a regular at Texas A&M. Last year he was in College Station for the dedication of a new auditorium in Texas A&M's two new physics buildings which was named in his honour.

#### Burns Supper

**The Heather and Thistle Society of Houston** put on another successful Burns Supper at the end of January. Due to increased venue costs and a slight downturn in attendance in previous years, the event was moved to the **Crown Plaza Hotel** at Highway 6, and experienced a sell-out! The chairman for the evening was the current Chairman of the Society, **Melwyn Douglass FSA Scot**. Everything went splendidly, from the Address to the Haggis (given marvelously by **Bob Gilbert**) to the excellent entertainment by the **Houston Highlanders Pipe Band** and

#### Wills-And-Kate

#### Movie: So Bad It'll Be Cult Classic

By Gregory Katz

CRITICS SAY a new made-for-TV, Wills-And-Kate movie is so bad it may end up being a cult classic.

**William and Kate: The Movie** treats the Windsor dynasty as daytime soap opera. The low-budget, rushed-to-completion movie is getting plenty of attention in Britain, for all the wrong reasons.

"So bad it's awful, toe-curlingly, teeth-furrringly, pillow-bitingly ghastly," was the verdict last month in *The Guardian* newspaper, which concluded the flick was probably destined to be a smash.

The movie chronicles the university romance of Prince William and Kate Middleton, who in real life met and fell in love while studying art history at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

#### ENGAGEMENT

Airing in Britain and the United States before the April 29 royal wedding in London, it was directed by Mark Rosman and produced in the five months since the couple announced their engagement last November.

Critics have not been impressed with Rosman's ability to capture the nuances of Britain's eccentric, distinctive royal family.

*The Guardian* pointed out that the movie was shot entirely in the Los Angeles area, with poorly done British accents, countryside scenes that looked like California instead of Britain, and London buses driving, incorrectly, on the right side of the street. The acting was described as wooden or worse.

*London Evening Standard* critic Richard Godwin said American critics "panned this movie as a cheesy chick-flick" but predicted the English will end up cherishing it because the movie is so outlandish.

Much is made in the film of the unlikelyhood that William would ever marry a commoner.

time talking with John about the restaurant's delightful cuisine, and also gave him some pointers on tunes! Duran Duran, the favourite band of Princess Diana, were in town for a gig at Warehouse Live.

**John Taylor – Duran Duran and Hugo Ortega at Hugo's.**

## British calendar EVENTS

### NORTHEAST OHIO

By Joe Nicholls. Joe and Kevin McGinty can be heard on "Sounds of Britain and Ireland" Sundays 4-5pm on Cleveland's WCPN 90.3FM and [www.wcpn.org](http://www.wcpn.org).

#### MAY

1: **Scottish American Society**. Monthly meeting, Akron Public Library, Downtown Akron, 3pm, (330) 882-0342.

1: **Jaguar Club of Ohio**. Wine Tasting & Pot Luck, Stults Residence, Canton, 2pm, (330) 837-5755.

6:20: **British-American Club**. Fish & chips dinners, 8564 Ravenna Rd., off Rte 82, Twinsburg, 6:30-8:30pm (330) 963-6370.

6:13:20:27: **West Side Irish American Club**. Irish-style dinners, 8559 Jennings Rd., Olmsted Township, 6-9pm (216) 251-4075.

7: **Cleveland Kilie Band**. Annual Highland Ball, St Sava Church Hall, 2151 W Wallings Rd., N Royalton, 7pm, (440) 237-3913.

10, 24: **SHAWO**. Scottish Heritage Meetings, Community Presbyterian Church, 5132 Mayfield Rd., Lyndhurst, 7:30pm (330) 463-5559.

11: **Calon Lan Welsh Club**. Lunch Meeting, Denby's Restaurant, Rte 224, Boardman, 1pm (330) 758-4202.

13:27: **British-American Club**. Pub Nights, 8564 Ravenna Rd., Twinsburg, 8pm, (330) 963-6370.

14: **Cleveland Marx Society**. Monthly Luncheon, Olive Garden Restaurant, Mentor, 1pm (216) 481-2476.

21: **Scottish American Society**. Celtic Beltane Festival, Maize Valley Winery, Hartsville, All day, (330) 882-0342.

26: **Daughters of the BE**. Westminster Chapter meeting, Lyndhurst, 7:30pm (440) 461-2533.

20: **British American C of C Link Club**. Luncheon, Lockkeeper's restaurant, Valley View, 11:30am (216) 621-0222.

## Royal Succession Rule Change A Possibility

By Sylvia Hui

BRITAIN'S government has begun the process of reviewing the ancient, discriminatory rules of royal succession, so that if Prince William and Kate Middleton's first child is a girl she would eventually become Queen.

The current rule that puts boys ahead of their sisters "would strike most people as a little old-fashioned," Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said last month.

Just weeks before the prince and Middleton married at London's Westminster Abbey, Clegg said many people may agree that the rules should be changed so that if the couple's first child were a girl, she would eventually inherit the throne – even if she had a younger brother.

"I think most people in this day and age would think it's worth considering whether we change the rules so that baby girl could become the future monarch," he told reporters. "I think that would be in keeping with the changes that are happening with society as a whole."

The Cabinet Office said the government accepts that some aspects of the succession rule "could be discriminatory." It said the government has started discussions with British Commonwealth nations that would be directly affected by any change because they recognize the British monarch as their head of state, but declined to release details of those talks.

#### LOWER

William is second in line to the throne after his father, Prince Charles, who is Queen Elizabeth II's first-born child. Charles' sister Anne is lower in the line of succession than her younger brothers Andrew and Edward. Charles, in turn, had only sons, William and Harry.

Elizabeth II succeeded her father, King George VI, because he had no sons. If she had had a brother, however much younger he was, he would have jumped above her in the line of succession.

Clegg stressed that although he is "sympathetic" to an overhaul of the rule, the issue

is complex and any change will take a long time. Amending the succession law would require agreement and similar legal overhauls in the Commonwealth countries where the British monarch is the head of state.

The thorny issue of the succession has been an on and off topic in Britain, but it has never been resolved. In 2009, then Prime Minister Gordon Brown's government considered a bill that would end the custom of putting males ahead of females in the succession line, as well as lift a ban on British monarchs marrying Roman Catholics. The government did not have time to pursue it before Brown's term ended.

#### EXCLUDED

The rule has excluded women from succeeding to the throne in the past. Queen Victoria's first child was a daughter – also called Victoria – but it was her younger brother who succeeded to the throne, as King Edward VII.

Buckingham Palace has always refrained from commenting on the political issue, saying it's a matter for the government.

Experts say they hope the matter will be resolved before Middleton begins producing children to avoid a confusing line of succession like that in Sweden, where a rule change led to a title being passed from a prince to his elder sister.

Some other European countries with monarchies, including Denmark and Norway, have also removed the rule of male preference.

But in Spain, precedence is still given to sons over daughters. Crown Prince Felipe will inherit the throne from his father King Juan Carlos, and should Felipe and Princess Letizia have a son, their firstborn daughter Princess Leonor would be overtaken in the royal line of succession.

The current government there has raised the issue, as part of a move to achieve greater equality in Spanish society, but so far no action has been taken. That is likely because Felipe has older sisters, and his succession would be interrupted should the law be changed now.



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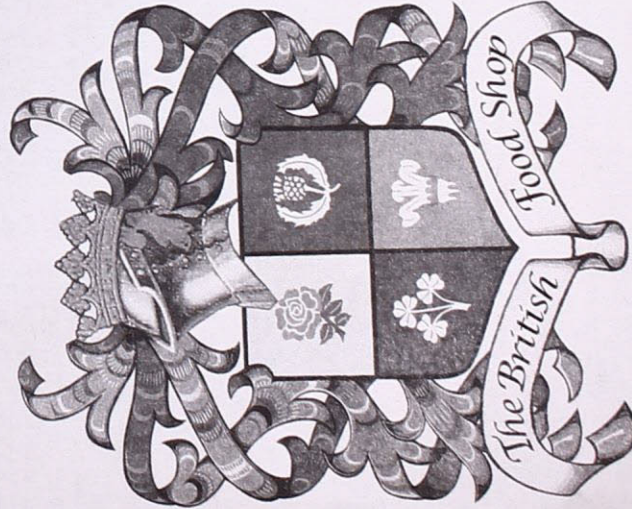
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## UNION JACK SPORTING ROUNDUP

Compiled by Larry Gardner

### WORLD CRICKET

**INDIA** WON the ICC World Cricket Cup at Mumbai, April 2, beating **Sri Lanka** by four wickets in the final. Sri Lanka 274, **Mahela Jayawardene** 103 not out-6 at 50 overs. India 277-4 at close. After the tournament, the ICC announced that the 2015 World Cricket Cup would be cut down to ten teams, from the 14 that participated this year. Second tier cricketing nations immediately criticised the decision declaring they would effectively be removed from the world's top competition and they are demanding at least, a qualifying group process. **Andy Strauss** blamed England's poor showing on the long overseas schedule, that did see them retain the Ashes, but nearly four months in Australia, followed by the World Cup, left the team somewhat laded. This summer England will host Sri Lanka in a three match Test series (May 26-July 9) followed by a four match Test series against India scheduled through July 23-September 16.

**Rick Ponting** has stepped down as Australian skipper to be replaced by **Michael Clarke**. Ponting has led the Aussies in the one day game since 2002, and in Test cricket since 2004. Clarke is a right hand bat with 65 Test appearances.

### THE COUNTY GAME

The opening matches of the 2011 County Championship commenced early last month with some very definitive results. At Edgbaston, **Warwickshire** slammed **Somerset** by an innings and 382 runs. Warwick 642 (**Varun Chopra** 210, **Chris Woakes** 129). Somerset 210 and 50. **Lancashire** stunned **Sussex** by an innings and 55 runs, while **Yorkshire** overwhelmed **Worcestershire** by nine wickets, as did **Nottinghamshire** over **Hampshire**. In the second division, **Northants** blasted **Kent** by an innings and 159 runs, and **Derbyshire** bested **Leicestershire** by an innings and 32 runs.

### THE GRAND NATIONAL

Britons reached in to their wallets to wager £150m on the 164<sup>th</sup> running of the Grand National, April 9. **Aintree** hosted a crowd of 71,000, to watch the world's famous steeplechase of four miles, 836 yards and thirty grueling jumps. **Ballabrigg** (14-1) broke free from the field over the final fence to win by two and half lengths, from **Oscar Time** (14-1) followed by last year's winner, **Don't Push It** at 9-1. **State of Play** (28-1) was fourth, 19 of the 40 starters finished the race. Ballabrigg was ridden by **Jason Maguire**, trained by **Donald McCain Jr** (the son of **Ginger McCain** of Red Rum fame) and owned by **Trevor Hemmings**. The horse had won five of his last six outings. **Sam Waley-Cohen**, who won the Cheltenham Gold Cup on **Lean Run** recently, rode the second horse **Oscar Time**, owned by his Dad, Robert. The family were delighted. **The Midnight Club** was the 15-2 favourite, but finished tenth. **Manchester United** supporters were rooting for **What a Friend**, co-owned by Sir Alex Ferguson, but the horse was not in championship form and was pulled up half through the race.

The previous week, the big race that heralds the new flat season at Doncaster, April 2, the one mile William Hill Lincolnshire Handicap, was won by **Sweet Lightning** (16-1) by two and a half lengths from **Brae Hill** at 22-1. Ridden by **JP Murtagh**, trained by

stroke lead. Thoughts of the 21-year-old joining a select band of Brits who have won here like **Nick Faldo**, **Phil Woosnam** and **Sandy Lyle** were on people's mind. But then, as the final nine began, disaster struck. The Usterman hit a seven on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a bogey five on the 11<sup>th</sup> and a double bogey five on the 12<sup>th</sup> leaving him four over par, and completely out of contention and his dream shattered. South Africa's **Charl Schwartzel** claimed his first Masters with a 14 under 274, as a saddened McIlroy could only wonder what might have been, finishing ten behind the winner. The Irish youngster moved on to The Malaysian Open at Kuala Lumpur, where his clubs got mislaid in transit, but he did hit a spectacular eight under 64 in the second round that put him ahead. 17-year-old Italian teenager **Matteo Manassaro** took the honours however, after a 16 under 272. McIlroy was two distant in third place.

**WESTWOOD WINS, BUNKER FOILS DONALD**  
**Lee Westwood** celebrated his 38<sup>th</sup> birthday, April 24, by winning the Indonesian Masters at Jakarta with a 19 under 275, three clear of the field. He started the final round with a five stroke lead and held to the consistency he had displayed in the earlier rounds. He is likely to move to a number one world ranking. Third ranked **Luke Donald** went into a play-off with **Brandt Snedeker**, at the Heritage Classic in Hilton Head, North Carolina, April 24, and a victory would have seen him moved to the number one spot. But bunker mayhem disrupted his pace on the third play-off hole, and Snedeker claimed the victory after both had finished on a 12 under 274. Earlier, 25-year-old Englishman, **Dave Horsey**, claimed his second European tour victory at the Royal course in Agadir, Morocco, April 3, when he won a three man playoff on the third hole, against Welshman **Rhys Davies** and **Jaco Van Zyl** of South Africa to win the Trophée Hassan Classic. The three had finished on a 13 under par 274.

### TENNIS & SAILING

After a run of first round exits, **Andy Murray** saw his game improve substantially last month in the Monte Carlo Masters. **Rafael Nadal** put the Scot out in the semi-finals 6-4, 2-6, 6-1, but Murray did eliminate **Radek Stepanek** (Czech Rep) **Gilles Simon** (Fr) and **Frederico Gil** (Port) in the quarter-finals. Nadal beat **David Ferrer** in the final. British sailor **Dee Caffari**, became the only woman to sail around the world three times, when she finished sixth in the Barcelona World Race. The 25,000 mile long race took her and co-skipper **Anna Corbella** 103 days, 14 boats left early last December, with Caffari and Corbella the only female contestants. Four did not finish. The French pair of **Jean-Pierre Dick** and **Loick Peyron** were the winners. Dee Caffari had previously completed two solo journeys around the world. **MOTOR RACING & TRIATHLON**  
The Formula One 2011 season started late March with Red Bulls **Sebastian Vettel** winning both the Australian and Malaysian Grand Prix. **Jensen Button** followed, him home in both races. At the Chinese Grand

### STROKE LEAD

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Prix in Shanghai, April 17. Vettel led until the last four laps when Briton, **Lewis Hamilton** got in front and claimed a dramatic victory. 2-2 in the 77<sup>th</sup> minute, and then Goodwillie stunned the partisan fans with the winner. Glasgow police put an extra 1,000 police on the street for the final meeting of the season for the Old Firm at the Ibrox Stadium, April 24, after a parcel bomb had been dispatched Celtic coach **Neil Lennon**. A full house turned out for a lively encounter, which saw Rangers goalkeeper **Allan McGregor** have an excellent game that saw him save a penalty from **Georgio Samaras**. The goalless draw leaves the SPL title wide open with just one point separating them. The final games of the season are scheduled May 15, when the title will eventually be decided.

### MORE SOCCER

Late March, **Fabio Capello** reshuffled the whole English team for a friendly against Ghana at Wembley. An 80,000 crowd witnessed **Andrew Carroll** put England ahead two minutes before the break, only to see **Asamoah Gyan** find the net in the closing seconds to give the visitors a 1-1 tie. **North-ern Ireland** took on **Slovenia** at Windsor Park in a European Championship qualifier, but a four game produced little excitement and the match ended goalless.

FFA President **Sepp Blatter** will face off against **Mohamed bin Hamman** in an election for the presidency of FIFA, May 31. Blatter has come under fire for the selection of Russia and Qatar as the 2018 and 2022 venues for the World Cup. His autocratic ways have not made him popular with European Associations, but Blatter, 75, has run FIFA since 1998, and is expected to beat bin Hamman, a 61-year-old Qatari, who is the President of the Asian Football Association.

American entrepreneurs have taken over a number of top premier league clubs, but now, could be setting their sights on Serie A clubs in Italy.

**Thomas Di Benedetto** of the Fenway Sports Group has forked out a reputed £62m for a 67 percent controlling interest in **AS Roma**. The Fenway Sports Group is the parent company in charge at **Liverpool**. Roma have played continuously for 78 years in Italy's top flight Serie A, but have won just three championships during that time.

**Crawley Town**, who made history by reaching the fifth round of the FA Cup, before falling 1-0 to **Manchester United** at Old Trafford, are the Blue Square Conference League champions and will start next season in Division Two of the football league ... **Carlisle Utd** won the Johnstone Paint Trophy at Wembley, April 3, beating **Brentford** 1-0, in front of a 40,000 plus crowd, **A Peter Murphy** goal in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute sealed the win in a competition that caters for Division one and two clubs.

### SPORTING PASSING

World class, long distance women runners were an oddity until **Grete Waitz** set a world record for the 3,000m in 1975. The Norwegian born athlete would move up to the marathon, and would win the New York Marathon nine times between 1978 and 1988, bringing much publicity to a race that was still in its infancy and looking for world wide credibility at that time. Grete Waitz was 57.

### Police Talk To Rooney Over Phone Being Hacked

POLICE contacted Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney after his mobile phone was apparently hacked into by a British tabloid newspaper.

London police have conducted a high-profile investigation into the *News of the World's* role in a series of illegal interceptions into celebrities' voicemails.

"Scotland Yard detectives came to see me earlier and showed me some documents, looks like a newspaper have hacked into my phone," Rooney said April 28 on his Twitter account.

London police said they would not comment on Rooney's case.

The *News of the World* has acknowledged that the practice of illegal hacking was more widespread than it had maintained when two employees were jailed in 2007 for eavesdropping on voicemail messages of royal employees.

The paper recently had three journalists detained for questioning, and said it will pay compensation for an unspecified number of "justifiable claims."

Rooney has regularly seen allegations about his private life splashed across British newspapers.

"Newspapers hacking into phones!! Desperate and Disgusting!!!" Rooney's wife Coleen wrote on her Twitter account.

The *News of the World* has already paid \$1.2m to Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, to settle a hacking case against the paper.

The *News of the World* is owned by News International Ltd, which is a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE/QUARTER-FINALS

April 5-6 & 12-13, saw the last eight collide in the quarter-finals of Europe's Champion League. A **Wayne Rooney** goal in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute at Stamford Bridge witnessed the all-British, **Chelsea-Manchester United** contest tightly fought with the Reds coming away with a 1-0 advantage. At Old Trafford, nails were bitten to the bone as **Javier Hernandez** broke the tension with a goal two minutes from half-time. Chelsea had **Ramires** sent off in the 69<sup>th</sup> minute. Then an incredible piece of action occurred in the 77<sup>th</sup> minute with **Didier Droghda** leveling the game for Chelsea, but no sooner had the game restarted than **Park Ji Sung** found the net to put United 2-1 ahead.

**Tottenham Hotspur** were greeted by an 80,000 plus crowd in Madrid, where **Peter Crouch's** sending off in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute, really put them on the back foot. **Emmanuel Adebayor** put nine time European Champions **Real Madrid** ahead after just five minutes, but it would be the second half before the Spaniards moved in to top gear. Adebayor got a second in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute, **Angel Di Maria** made it a treble in the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute, while three minutes from time **Ronaldo** hit the net giving a 4-0, victory for the home team. At White Hart Lane, Spurs were game, and goal by **Ronaldo** did not let anything slip and a goal by **Ronaldo** in the 56<sup>th</sup> minute gave the Spaniards a 5-0 winning aggregate.

In the other quarter-final matches, reigning European champions **Inter Milan** got thrashed at home 2-5 by **Shakke 04**, who won their home tie 2-1. **Barcelona** slammed **Shakhtar Donetsk** 5-1 in Spain, while a **Lionel Messi** goal in the Ukraine gave Barca a 6-1 winning aggregate.

### FA CUP

The semi-finals of the FA Cup, April 16-17, played to full houses at Wembley. **Manchester United** were without suspended **Wayne Rooney**, and when **Paul Scholes** got sent off in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute for a foul on **Pablo Zabaleta**, and the Reds were on the defensive. **Alex Ferguson's** men forced the City forward from the start, but **Manchester City** grittily got back in to the game when **Yaya Toure** put them ahead seven minutes after the break. The one goal would prove enough for the sky-blues, and it is some compensation after being ejected from Europe recently.

The other semi-final saw **Stoke City** overwhelm **Bolton Wanderers** 5-0, in a game that left Trotter fans wondering why their team had fallen apart. Goals by **Matthew Etherington** (11<sup>th</sup> minute) **Robert Huth** (17<sup>th</sup>) and **Kenwyn Jones** (30<sup>th</sup>) had the Potters 3-0 up by half-time. **Jon Walters** added a brace in the 68<sup>th</sup> and 81<sup>st</sup> minutes to make it five, and Stoke City were ready to make their very first appearance in a FA Cup final.

### SCOTTISH CUP

The semi-finals of the Scottish Cup, April 16-17, saw **Motherwell** go two up in fifteen minutes after a fast and effective start against **St Johnstone**.

**Steven Craig** and **Jamie Murphy** were the marksmen. Six minutes before the break, **John Sutton** added a third and the 3-0 result was enough to put Motherwell in their first Scottish Cup final in twenty years.

The other semi-final had **Celtic** and **Aberdeen** head-to-head in the first half, even though the Dons had **Andrew Considine** sent off in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute.

Four minutes after the break however, **Charlie Mulgrew** put Celtic ahead, **Joe Ledley** found the net in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute, and **Kris Commons** put a penalty away six minutes later. **Shaun Maloney** would add another to the Hoops scoreline, and Celtic were through to another Scottish Cup final with a 4-0 win.

### RANGERS & CELTIC LOCKED IN BATTLE FOR SPL CROWN

Rangers were shocked at the Ibrox, April 2, where a last minute goal by **David Goodwillie** gave **Dundee Utd** a 3-2 victory in front of a 46,000 crowd. The defeat did not help the Gers championship hopes. **Nikica Jelavic** put the hosts ahead in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute and **David**



## EURO & DOMESTIC CUPS RESULTS, FIXTURES & DRAWS

### UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-Finals

Schalke 0, Manchester United 2  
Real Madrid 0, Barcelona 2  
(Second Legs May 3-4)

### EUROPA LEAGUE

Quarter-Finals

(First Legs April 28)  
Braga 1, Benfica 2  
Porto 5, Villarreal 1  
(Second Legs May 9)

### FA CUP FINAL

Sunday, May 14  
Wembley Stadium  
Man City v Stoke City

### SCOTTISH CUP

Semi-Finals

Motherwell 3, St Johnstone 0  
Aberdeen 0, Celtic 4

Final

Sunday, May 21  
Hampden Park  
Motherwell v Celtic

## BARCLAYS PREMIER FIXTURES FOR THE MONTH

Sunday, May 1

Birmingham v Wolverhampton  
Liverpool v Newcastle Utd  
Aston Villa v Man United  
Man City v West Ham Utd

Saturday, May 7

Aston Villa v Wigan Ath  
Bolton v Sunderland  
Everton v Man City  
Newcastle Utd v Birmingham

West Ham Utd v Blackburn Rovers  
Tottenham v Blackpool

Sunday, May 8

Wolverhampton v West Brom  
Stoke City v Arsenal  
Man United v Chelsea

Monday, May 9

Fulham v Liverpool  
Tottenham v Arsenal  
Man City v Tottenham

Tuesday, May 10

Blackpool v Bolton W  
Sunderland v Wolverhampton  
West Brom v Everton

Sunday, May 15

Chelsea v Newcastle Utd  
Arsenal v Aston Villa  
Birmingham City v Fulham

Wednesday, May 11

Liverpool v Tottenham  
Wigan Ath v West Ham Utd  
Tottenham v Arsenal

Tuesday, May 17

Man City v Stoke City  
Aston Villa v Tottenham  
Sunderland v Bolton W

Monday, May 22

Blackpool v Bolton W  
Bolton W v Man City  
Everton v Chelsea

Sunday, May 22

Fulham v Arsenal  
Man United v Blackpool  
Newcastle Utd v West Brom

Stoke City v Wigan Ath

Tottenham v Birmingham

West Ham Utd v Sunderland

Wolverhampton v Blackburn Rovers

## PREMIERSHIP ROUNDUP

### By Ridge Mahoney

**Arsenal** – A goal by Robin van Persie brought the Gunners level 1-1 at Bolton shortly after halftime, but a goal conceded in the final minute left them with a 2-1 defeat and nine points behind leader Manchester United with only four games to play. The Gunners scored three goals in the first half at White Hart Lane but were only 3-2 ahead at halftime; goals by Theo Walcott, Samir Nasri and van Persie added up to only a point when they conceded a second-half goal to wind up drawing a game they'd led by two goals. A penalty won and a penalty conceded deep in stoppage time produced a 1-1 home draw with Liverpool that so incensed manager Arsene Wenger he refused to shake hands with his counterpart.

**Aston Villa** – Chest pains sent Aston Villa manager Gerald Houllier to the hospital, which is where he watched Villa rally for a 1-1 draw with Stoke City. Darren Bent, an £18m Houllier purchase in January, scored his seventh goal in 12 games for the club to earn Villa their eighth point in the last four matches. Bent headed an equalizer late in the first half and Gabriel Agbonlahor notched the winner in stoppage time for a dramatic 2-1 victory at West Ham.

**Birmingham** – Sebastian Larsson's penalty kick in the 77th minute averted a shutout as City went down 3-1 at Chelsea. Larsson celebrated his 100th Premier League appearance with a goal and Craig Gardner scored his team-leading ninth goal of the season to down Sunderland, 2-0. Kevin Phillips' goal in the fourth minute and Gardner's tally early in the second half were enough to subdue Bolton, 2-1.

**Blackburn** – A 1-0 home loss to Manchester City on Easter Monday extended their winless streak to 10 games. Phil Jones and Martin Olsson failed to convert chances in the final minutes that would have earned a point. Paul Robinson recorded five saves and Rovers overcame the dismissal of Steven Nzonzi in the 76th minute to extract a 0-0 draw from the Emirates Stadium.

**Blackpool** – Three denied penalty appeals tarnished Blackpool's 1-1 home draw with Newcastle. Angry fans booed referee Martin Atkinson off the field more than an hour after DJ Campbell's 32nd-minute equalizer had brought the Seaside's level. Charlie Adam hit the goalpost with a shot but his giveaway provided the chance by which Newcastle took an early 1-0 lead. In a 3-1 home loss to Wigan Campbell scored a late consolation goal.

**Bolton** – Wanderers all but killed off Arsenal's flickering title hopes by beating the Gunners, 2-1, on an emotional day at the Reebok Stadium. Amir Cohen headed home the winning goal in the 90th minute and then broke down in tears as he removed his jersey to reveal a photo of his father Avi, who died in December of injuries suffered in a car accident. Daniel Sturridge had opened the scoring in the 38th minute and Kevin Davies missed a penalty a minute before Arsenal scored a tying goal.

## Liverpool Marks Hillsborough Disaster Anniversary

LIVERPOOL manager Kenny Dalglish led commemorations last month to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Hillsborough stadium disaster.

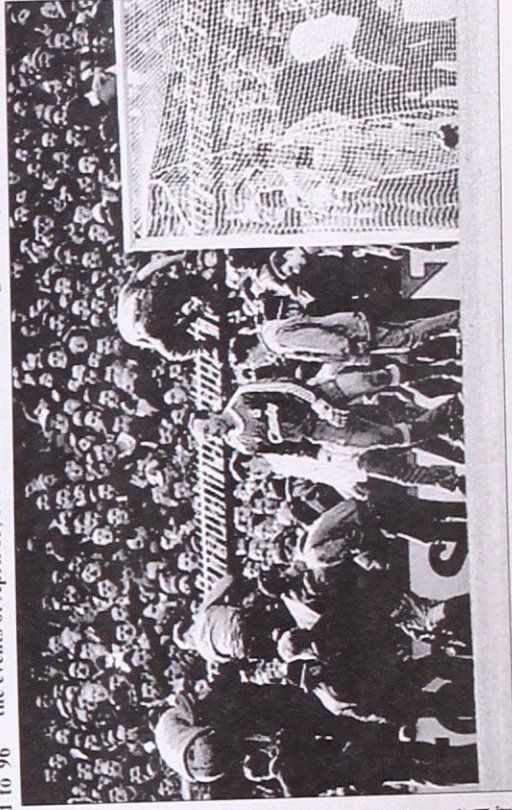
It is the first time Dalglish has attended the memorial service as Liverpool manager since 1990, a year after the crush at the 1989 FA Cup semifinal against Nottingham Forest led to 96 Reds fans dying.

The mental scars of the tragedy led to Dalglish leaving the manager's job in 1991. He was re-hired in January following Roy Hodgson's departure.

"It's a significant day for every Liverpool supporter," Dalglish said. "Everyone knows what it means to the football club. It's a day when we remember that 96 fans went to a football match and never came back."

### CHANTS

"It's a sad day and it's a day etched in the minds of everyone connected with the club." During the Anfield service attended by the Liverpool squad, there were chants of



They did manage to depart with a 1-1 draw, though they claimed that Jose Enrique Sanchez had cleared a ball before it crossed the goal line when Blackpool equalized. Relegation fears were eased with a 4-1 pummeling of Wolves in which Kevin Nolan, Shola Ameobi, Lovrenkovic and Jonas Gutierrez shared scoring honors.

**Stoke City** – The Potters halted a slide of seven straight away defeats by drawing 1-1 at Aston Villa. Kenwyne Jones headed in a Rory Delap throw-in to score in the 20th minute. Two shots of the woodwork left the Potters frustrated after a 1-1 draw with Chelsea in which Jonathan Walters scored in the eighth minute.

**Sunderland** – In his 500th league game as a manager, Steve Bruce vanquished one of his former employers as the Black Cats scored four goals in 31 minutes to beat Wigan Athletic, 4-2. Jordan Henderson scored the second and fourth goals, Asamoah Gyan equalized three minutes after Sunderland fell behind early in the second half, and Stephane Sessegnon tucked away a penalty kick for his first goal as a Black Cat as they ended a nine-game run without a win.

**Tottenham Hotspur** – Jermaine Defoe's scored his 100th goal for Tottenham after Roman Pavlyuchenko's equalizer, but Spurs conceded a late goal that forced them to settle for a 2-2 home draw with West Brom. A 20-yard blast from Tom Huddlestone and a 70th-minute penalty kick by Rafael Van der Vaart, who'd already scored in the first half, brought Spurs back from a 3-1 deficit to draw Arsenal, 3-3, in one of the most exciting North London derbies ever played at White Hart Lane.

**West Bromwich Albion** – Spectacular goals early and late earned Albion a 2-2 draw at Spurs. Peter Odemwingie controlled Carlos Vela's pass to curl home a 20-yard shot for his 13th goal of the season in the fifth minute, and substitute Simon Cox hit a dipping shot under the crossbar from about the same distance with nine minutes remaining. Chris Brunt converted two second-half penalties to take Albion past Liverpool, 2-1.

**West Ham United** – Robbie Keane scored in the second minute for a 1-0 home lead against Aston Villa and the Hammers couldn't handle the good fortune; they conceded an equalizer before halftime and following some excellent saves by keeper Robert Green succumbed again in stoppage time of a 2-1 defeat. Mark Noble put away two penalty kicks for a 2-0 halftime lead against Manchester United that evaporated as United roared back to win, 4-2.

**Wigan Athletic** – Mohamed Diamé scored early in the second half for a 1-0 lead at Sunderland but a defensive collapse meant that Franco Di Santo's goal in stoppage time was of only statistical relevance in a 4-2 defeat. Hugo Rodallega scored in the third minute and Charles N'Zogbia connected in first-half stoppage time to propel Wigan past Blackpool, 3-1. A Diamé shot went into the net via a deflection midway through the second half for a third goal.

**Wolverhampton** – Steven Fletcher headed in a cross from skipper Karl Henry midway through the first half to give Wolves a 1-0 lead at home against Fulham, but a goal conceded with 10 minutes remaining left them knotted up at 1-1.

## LEAGUE TABLES

As of April 30

### BARCLAYS PREMIER

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	34	21	7	71	32	38	73
2	35	21	7	66	28	38	70
3	34	18	10	67	36	31	64
4	33	17	10	51	30	21	59
5	34	15	13	51	39	12	52
6	35	11	15	48	43	5	48
7	35	12	10	43	48	0	46
8	35	12	10	43	36	7	45
9	35	12	10	43	43	0	43
10	35	11	14	31	63	-14	41
11	35	10	14	43	52	-13	41
12	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
13	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
14	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
15	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
16	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
17	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
18	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
19	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
20	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
21	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
22	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
23	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
24	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
25	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
26	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
27	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
28	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
29	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
30	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
31	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
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55	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
56	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
57	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
58	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
59	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
60	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
61	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
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99	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41
100	35	10	14	39	52	-13	41

### NPOWER FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Queens Park R	45	24	16	5	80	30	48	88
Norwich C	44	23	10	11	75	50	24	80
Cardiff City	44	23	10	11	75	50	25	79
Swansea City	45	17	15	13	52	72	-20	74
Sheff Wed	45	17	15	13	52	72	-20	74
Norwich F	45	18	11	16	50	16	72	69
Leeds United	45	15	12	19	69	10	69	62
Millwall	45	15	12	19	62	47	15	67
Burnley	45	18	13	14	64	40	4	67
Sheff Wed	45	18	13	14	64	40	4	67
Sheff Wed	45	18	13	14	64	40	4	67
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Phillips Going South

A GENERATION ago, Welsh rugby stars headed "north", ie to rugby league exile. Nowadays they are going south, to the sunlit uplands of France.

The latest to leave Wales is Mike Phillips, the scrum-half who played all three Tests for the British and Irish Lions against South Africa in 2009. He is in the closing stages of a lengthy withdrawal from the Swansea-based Ospreys.

Director of Rugby, Scott Johnson, at Swansea's Liberty Stadium revealed the club would let him go "after continued requests... over the last 18 months". The Ospreys' position is helped by the recent signing of the talented Samoan half-back, Kam Fotuall'i.

Phillips was first-choice No 9 for Wales this year and is expected to follow his clubmates, the fullback Lee Byrne and flyhalf James Hook to France. Byrne has agreed terms with Clermont Auvergne while Hook has settled for Perpignan, one of this year's Heineken Cup semi-finalists. Phillips, however, is believed to have attracted the interest of a bigger club, Toulouse, the reigning European champions. They have recently lost to Bayonne the services of All Black scrum-half Byron Kelleher.

Retirements

The retirements have been announced of Bath prop David Barnes and the Munster flanker Alan Quinlan. Barnes (34) has gone immediately on medical advice about a long-standing neck injury - the front row is not a safe spot for a dodgy neck! Quinlan at 37 is one of the oldest top-flight players in Europe. He would have toured with the Lions in South Africa had he not been banned for gouging shortly before setting off.

Both Sides Lose But One Wins

Newcastle Falcons' misfortunes continue. In April, they were bottom of the Aviva Premiership table and staring relegation in the face. Now they have been heavily fined and banned from European competition for a year, suspended for five years.

The punishment relates to a game that should have been played against Bourgoin on January 22. The French pitch was deemed unplayable and rescheduled for the following day. Newcastle, however, decided to fly back home before the midday inspection when of course Sod's Law decided the game should go

ahead that day. Newcastle pleaded guilty.

The fixture was never played but this had no effect on the eventual outcome of the Ammin Challenge Cup since neither side could have qualified for the quarter-finals. The European Rugby Cup disciplinary panel awarded the unplayed game to Bourgoin, handing them a 28-0 victory, which meant they also picked up a bonus point.

There is a twist in the tale for Bourgoin were also fined and charged after they pleaded guilty to the charge that they had not done their best to ensure the match went ahead despite the poor weather. You couldn't make it up!

Gavin Henson Struggles

TV celebrity dancer Gavin Henson is hoping for a two-year contract with Toulon alongside Jonny Wilkinson. Sadly for him, the French side has signed Walkley Matt Giteau in Henson's preferred position. Giteau arrives in November leaving just nine games for Henson to stake his claim but it will not have been helped by a very public punch-up after his first game against Toulouse that led to his being banned by Toulon for a week.

Toulon's coach, Philippe Saint-Andre once of Sale, said of Henson: "I wanted to sign him (at Sale) but I told him if he came to us he needed to eat and sleep rugby and be a footballer again." Henson is desperate to get top-class rugby experience to fight his way back into the Welsh World Cup squad.

Italy Move To Florence

Italy has decided to switch its home internationals from Rome to Florence next season because of problems about the antiquated facilities at the Stadio Flaminio. Their success this season in beating France for the first time was attributed to the great party atmosphere inside the dilapidated arena but Italy are looking for a 21st century backcloth to their international aspirations.

In Florence they will share the stadium used by Fiorentina though there was a fixture clash back in 2009 when the football team had a game on the same day. Italy sold out the 80,000 seater San Siro in Milan for a New Zealand Test a couple of years back but that venue is shared by AC Milan and Inter Milan and used almost continually throughout the season.

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## SOCCER shorts

### Government Backs Fully British Olympic Team

BRITAIN'S sports minister has urged the soccer associations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to let their players join the British team at the 2012 London Olympics. As of now, the British team will only include Englishmen because the other three nations in the United Kingdom fear their independence within FIFA will be jeopardized by allowing their players to participate.

But sports minister Hugh Robertson emphasized last month that "cast-iron guarantees" had been given by FIFA to let top players like Wales winger Gareth Bale play.

Speaking at the SportAccord conference in London, Robertson said he "would hate to see for political reasons any young man or woman denied a chance to compete for their country."

### Fan Suing Sunderland After Being Hit By Stray Shot

SUNDERLAND chairman Niall Quinn says a fan is suing the club after being hit by a stray shot from former striker Djibril Cisse in a practice session.

Quinn told a local radio phone-in that the supporter was left badly hurt while he watched the Sunderland squad train during the 2008-09 season.

Since that incident, Sunderland no longer allows fans to watch the team train. Cisse was on loan at the Premier League team from French side Marseille that season, scoring 11 goals in 38 games.

### Liverpool Set For Preseason Tour To Asia

LIVERPOOL will tour the Far East this summer, playing matches in China, Malaysia and South Korea as part of the team's preseason preparations.

The Reds will open with a match in Guangzhou, before further games in Kuala Lumpur and Seoul in their July tour.

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard said that "the supporters over there are fanatical about Liverpool and it's great that we can give so many of them a chance to come and watch the team play."

Standard Chartered, the club's shirt sponsor, said last week the company is hoping Liverpool signs Asian players to boost commercial opportunities in the region.

Liverpool enjoyed a successful 10-day preseason tour of Thailand and Singapore in 2009.

### Owen Hargreaves' Man United Career Could Be Over



OWEN HARGREAVES' Manchester United career could be over after four injury plagued years.

Midfielder Hargreaves played only seconds against Sunderland last season, and limped off five minutes into a surprise start against Wolverhampton Wanderers in November with a torn hamstring.

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10-18	\$308	\$308	\$274	\$274	\$226	\$226
19-24	\$697	\$697	\$603	\$603	\$470	\$470
25-29	\$735	\$735	\$1,122	\$1,122	\$642	\$642
30-34	\$823	\$823	\$1,241	\$1,241	\$708	\$708
35-39	\$922	\$922	\$1,466	\$1,466	\$805	\$805
40-44	\$1,166	\$1,166	\$1,609	\$1,609	\$947	\$947
45-49	\$1,299	\$1,299	\$1,566	\$1,566	\$1,065	\$1,065
50-54	\$1,566	\$1,566	\$1,742	\$1,742	\$1,344	\$1,344
55-59	\$1,917	\$1,917	\$1,667	\$1,667	\$1,290	\$1,290
60-64	\$2,822	\$2,822	\$2,572	\$2,572	\$2,406	\$2,406
65-69	\$5,893	\$5,893	\$5,113	\$5,113	\$4,890	\$4,890
70-74	\$9,724	\$9,724	\$8,437	\$8,437	\$8,069	\$8,069
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"His contract is up at the end of the season but I don't know what is going to happen," United manager Alex Ferguson said. "Chief executive) David Gill had a discussion with the boy last week. But no more than that. We have to make a decision."

The 30-year-old Canadian-born England international has a shoulder injury that Ferguson does not believe he will recover from before the end of the season.

### Kuyt Agrees To Liverpool Deal



LIVERPOOL forward Dirk Kuyt has signed a new deal with the Premier League club through to 2013.

The 30-year-old Netherlands international, who joined Liverpool from Feyenoord in 2006, has spent the last month negotiating new terms.

He says "since the day I first walked in, I felt welcome. That feeling has never left."

Terms of the deal were disclosed by Dutch consultancy company Sport-Promotion. Manager Kenny Dalglish said on Liverpool's website that "the deal adds to the continuity of keeping people here that we want to keep."

### Houllier Released From Hospital After Heart Problem

ASTON VILLA assistant coach Gary McAllister said manager Gerard Houllier was admitted to hospital with chest pains but was not to require surgery.

Houllier, who had open heart surgery in 2001 while manager of Liverpool, was taken to hospital last month where he underwent tests.

On April 25 it was announced that Houllier would be released four days later.

McAllister who visited Houllier in hospital said the 63-year-old Frenchman was "bright and bubbly" and needed "purely medicine and rest." He added that specialists "are definitely saying there is no surgery needed, which is a massive plus."

McAllister will be in charge of Villa until Houllier returns.

### Parker Wins Footballer Of Year Award

SCOTT PARKER'S tireless midfield displays for West Ham were rewarded last month when he was voted the 2011 Footballer of the Year by England's football writers.

The England international topped the poll of journalists to win the prestigious award ahead of Tottenham winger Gareth Bale, who was last month voted Player of the Year by his fellow professionals.

The 30-year-old Parker, who will receive the accolade at a gala dinner on May 12, has been the standout performer for a West Ham side that is battling against relegation from the Premier League.

Primarily a holding midfielder, Parker has also scored seven goals in all competitions this season. But it is his boundless energy, influence on his teammates and reading of the game that have caught the eye, earning him a recall to the England team for recent games against Denmark and Wales.

Parker, who has also played for Chelsea and Newcastle, is the first West Ham player to win the award since England captain Bobby Moore in 1964.